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E/ESCAP/1264

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
26 April 2001-22 May 2002

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2002

SUPPLEMENT No. 19

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Abbreviations		(iv)
Introduction	1	1
Chapter		
I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION		1
A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council		1
B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council		1
II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION	2-5	1
A. Activities of subsidiary bodies	2-3	1
B. Other activities	4	1
C. Relations with other United Nations programmes	5	1
III. FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION	6-412	2
A. Attendance and organization of work	6-19	2
B. Agenda	20	3
C. Account of proceedings	21-412	4
Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP	22-24	4
Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations	25-27	4
Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand	28-46	4
Policy issues for the ESCAP region	47-109	6
Policy statement by the Executive Secretary	47-59	6
Implications of recent economic and social developments	60-79	8
Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options	80-106	10
Regional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development	107-109	13
Management issues	110-136	13
Implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission	110-119	13
Programme planning	120-136	14
Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005	120-125	14
Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001	126-131	15
Proposed programme changes for 2002-2003	132-135	16
Tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2002-March 2003	136	16
Emerging issues and developments at the regional level	137-314	16
Regional economic cooperation	137-188	16
Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its thirteenth meeting	138-144	17

CONTENTS *(continued)*

	Paragraphs	*Page*
Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation	145-170	17
Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	171-180	19
Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	181-188	20
Environment and natural resources development	189-211	21
Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its third session	189-208	21
Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 56/4 on the promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island States	209-211	22
Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	212-238	23
Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its fourth session	213-232	23
Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	233	25
Report of the Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth	234	25
Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	235-238	25
Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	239-277	25
Statistics	278-305	28
Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	292-305	30
Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries	306-314	31
Resource mobilization: technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	315-364	32
Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies	365-390	37
Asian and Pacific Development Centre	365-369	37
Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	370-374	37
Mekong River Commission	375-378	38
Typhoon Committee	379-383	38
Panel on Tropical Cyclones	384-390	39
Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	391-396	39
Date, venue and theme topic for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission	397-398	40
Ministerial Round Table	399-412	40

CONTENTS *(continued)*

		Page
IV.	RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION	43
58/1.	Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission	43
58/2.	Poverty reduction for sustainable development	52
58/3.	World Summit on Sustainable Development	54
58/4.	Promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century	55
58/5.	Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	57

Annexes

I.	Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission	61
II.	Meetings of subsidiary bodies and ad hoc ministerial conference	62
III.	Documents submitted to the Commission (listed by agenda item)	64
IV.	List of publications, meetings and advisory services in 2001	66
V.	Terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	79
VI.	Rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	81

ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCAEM	Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GDP	gross domestic product
GNP	gross national product
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICT	information and communications technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
POC	Pacific Operations Centre
RNAEM	Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TRIPS	trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights
UIC	International Union of Railways
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period from 26 April 2001 to 22 May 2002, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the fifth plenary meeting of its fifty-eighth session on 22 May 2002.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

58/1. Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

58/2. Poverty reduction for sustainable development

58/3. World Summit on Sustainable Development

58/4. Promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century

58/5. Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

2. During the period under review, the following meetings of subsidiary bodies, ad hoc intergovernmental meetings and ministerial conference were held: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas, Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure.

3. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex II to the present report. The reports of those bodies and the Ministerial Conference to the Commission reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

4. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the calendar year 2001 are given in annex IV to the present report.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

5. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

Chapter III

FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

6. The fifty-eighth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 16 to 22 May 2002. The session comprised two segments. The Senior Officials' Segment was held from 16 to 18 May 2002 and the Ministerial Segment from 20 to 22 May 2002.

7. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Afghanistan	Myanmar
Australia	Nepal
Azerbaijan	Netherlands
Bangladesh	New Zealand
Bhutan	Pakistan
Brunei Darussalam	Papua New Guinea
Cambodia	Philippines
China	Republic of Korea
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Russian Federation
Fiji	Samoa
France	Singapore
India	Solomon Islands
Indonesia	Sri Lanka
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Thailand
Japan	Tonga
Kazakhstan	Turkey
Kiribati	Tuvalu
Lao People's Democratic Republic	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Malaysia	United States of America
Maldives	Uzbekistan
Marshall Islands	Vanuatu
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Viet Nam
Mongolia	Cook Islands
	Hong Kong, China
	Macao, China
	New Caledonia

8. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Nigeria, Romania, Slovakia and South Africa attended. Representatives of the Holy See and Switzerland also attended.

9. The session was attended by an official of the Regional Commissions New York Office.

10. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

11. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and International Atomic Energy Agency.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asian Productivity Organization, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Commonwealth of Independent States, Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, Economic Cooperation Organization, European Union, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Mekong River Commission, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, Typhoon Committee Secretariat and WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

13. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status: Consumers International, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council on Social Welfare, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation on Ageing, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Organization of Employers, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Muslim World League, World Blind Union, World Confederation of Labour, World Conference on Religion and Peace, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Muslim Congress, World Veterans Federation and Zonta International. Observers

from the following organizations in special consultative status also attended: Baha'i International Community, Disabled Peoples' International, International Air Transport Association, International Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

14. Representatives of the Asian Institute for Rural Development, Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, Association François-Xavier Bagnoud, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Korea International Cooperation Agency and Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific also attended the session.

15. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(LVIII)/INF.1/Rev.2.

16. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected H.E. Mr. Narayan Khadka (Nepal) Chairperson.

17. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons: H.E. Mr. Shah Md. Abul Hussain (Bangladesh), H.E. Mr. Khy Tainglim (Cambodia), H.E. Mr. Wang Guang'ya (China), H.E. Mr. Dipak Chatterjee (India), H.E. Mr. Susanto Sutoyo (Indonesia), H.E. Mr. Hamidreza Baradaran Shoraka (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Mr. Seiken Sugiura (Japan), H.E. Mr. D.O. Kuanyshev (Kazakhstan), H.E. Mr. Bounkeut Sangsomsak (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Hon. Tan Sri Bernand Giluk Dompok (Malaysia), Hon. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki (Maldives), H.E. Mr. Luvsan Erdenechuluun (Mongolia), H.E. U Soe Tha (Myanmar), H.E. Mr. Nawid Ahsan (Pakistan), Hon. Virgilio R. Delos Reyes (Philippines), H.E. Mr. Kim Hang-kyung (Republic of Korea), Hon. Alex Bartlett (Solomon Islands), Hon. Tyronne Fernando (Sri Lanka), H.E. Mr. Pracha Guna-kasem (Thailand) and H.E. Mr. Le Van Bang (Viet Nam).

18. The Senior Officials' Segment of the session met in three Committees of the Whole to consider agenda items 1-3 and 5-10. Committee of the Whole I elected Ms. Noumea Simi (Samoa) Chairperson and Mr. S.T. Rabgye (Bhutan) and Mr. Melih Ulueren (Turkey) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole II elected Mr. Mojtaba Khalesi (Islamic Republic of Iran) Chairperson and Mr. Wang Xiaolong (China) and Mr. Manop Mekprayoonthong (Thailand) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole III elected Mr. Souphanh Keomixay (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Chairperson and Mr. Ikhtiar M. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) and Datin Paduka Halimah Abdullah (Malaysia) Vice-Chairpersons.

19. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ms. Adi Litia Samanunu Q.T. Cakobau (Fiji), to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr. M. Nafees Zakaria (Pakistan) and Mr. Seth Winnick (United States) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

20. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.148, E/ESCAP/L.149 and Corr.1).
4. Policy issues for the ESCAP region:
   (a) Implications of recent economic and social developments (E/ESCAP/1232 and Corr.1);
   (b) Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options (E/ESCAP/1233);
   (c) Regional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/1234).
5. Management issues:
   (a) Implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1235);
   (b) Programme planning (E/ESCAP/1236, E/ESCAP/1237 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1238 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1239).
6. Emerging issues and developments at the regional level:
   (a) Regional economic cooperation (E/ESCAP/1240-1243);
   (b) Environment and natural resources development (E/ESCAP/1244-1245);
   (c) Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas (E/ESCAP/1246-1247, E/ESCAP/1248 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1263);
   (d) Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (E/ESCAP/1249-1251);
   (e) Statistics (E/ESCAP/1252-1253);
   (f) Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries (E/ESCAP/1254).

7. Resource mobilization: technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/1255).

8. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/1256-1260).

9. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1261 and Add.1).

10. Date, venue and theme topic for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1262).

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

21. The session was declared open by the Acting Chairperson of the fifty-seventh session, the Hon. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki (Maldives). The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address. H.E. Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

22. The Executive Secretary welcomed those attending the session. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session, thus reaffirming the country's dedication and commitment to the aims and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and the role of ESCAP in bringing together the countries of the region.

23. Since the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, the terrorist incidents of 11 September 2001 and the situation in Afghanistan had affected the growth performance of the ESCAP region. Uncertainties continued to affect the growth prospects for the United States and Japanese economies, although there were hopeful signs of recovery. Those factors and the continued scourge of terrorism posed serious challenges for Governments of the ESCAP region.

24. ESCAP remained committed to assisting the developing countries of the region, in particular, the least developed countries, in building their capacity to cope with the numerous challenges ahead. The secretariat looked forward to the support and cooperation of the members and associate members.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

25. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, held at Doha in 2001, had offered the prospect of a true "development round" of trade negotiations and of a global market that was fair. It had given men and women in the developing world a chance to trade their way out of poverty. The recently concluded International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, had also offered the promise that developing countries would be able to seize such an opportunity by mobilizing the resources that were so desperately needed for development.

26. The next challenge was to seize the opportunity presented by the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg. Development was not development if it was not environmentally sound and could not be kept going over the long term. Each of those meetings had significant implications for the ESCAP region. Many countries had been hit hard by the global economic slowdown of 2001. Many countries were making gains in raising employment, reducing poverty and reforming policies. However, progress had been interrupted.

27. ESCAP had an important role to play in making the voice of Asia heard at Johannesburg and in supporting the region's efforts to achieve the United Nations millennium development goals.

Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand

28. The Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, extended a warm welcome to those attending the session.

29. He noted that the theme of the current session was both important and timely. Globalization, if properly managed, could bring about wider choices and new opportunities for prosperity. Rapid globalization, in many circumstances, had a considerable adverse impact on developing countries, including the aggravation of poverty, an increase in social and income disparities and the increasing marginalization of poorer countries in the global economy. The opportunity provided to discuss innovative ways and means to address core social development concerns in the light of rapid globalization was welcome. It was generally agreed that social and human dimensions constituted an integral part of overall balanced development strategies, especially those designed to address the root causes of poverty.

30. Like many other developing nations in the Asian and Pacific region, Thailand needed to confront urgently the issue of poverty elimination, which was coupled with growing socio-economic disparities and a widening lack of opportunities and limited resources for the poor. That was why the Government of Thailand gave the highest priority to poverty alleviation in its national development agendas.

31. Thailand's development efforts, however, were hampered by the sharp global economic downturn, which had been made worse by the events of 11

September 2001. The country had had to adjust its development strategies and priorities swiftly to cope with the new set of realities and requirements so as to maintain the regeneration of economic growth in a manner that concurrently reduced income disparities and social inequalities.

32. Various measures had been taken to revitalize the Thai economy and achieve sustainable livelihood, particularly for the rural poor. In that regard, the Government of Thailand had adopted a two-pronged approach towards revitalizing the economy. On the one hand, the Government was stimulating foreign direct investment and improving domestic demand, particularly at the grass-roots level. On the other hand, it was enhancing the competitiveness of the export sector, with an emphasis on SMEs. The Government also planned to ensure continuous financing support by establishing a bank for SMEs in the near future.

33. At the grass-roots level, the Government had set up the People's Bank facility to provide low-income people with access to microcredit. The Village Revolving Fund had been set up to provide a firm financial formulation for villagers to earn supplementary incomes. The "One Village, One Product" initiative had been launched by the Government to encourage each community to develop and market its own speciality or product which met international standards and served both domestic and international requirements and outlets.

34. As poverty was multifaceted, the fight to overcome it needed to go beyond generating adequate incomes for the poor. The provision of adequate social services, including comprehensive health care, sanitation, quality basic education and genuine public security, needed to be ensured. In that context, the Government of Thailand had initiated a universal health insurance scheme, commonly referred to as the "30 baht per hospital visit" scheme, which aimed at providing all Thai citizens with equal access to acceptable standards of health-care facilities. The health insurance scheme currently covered 75 provinces as well as the 38 districts of Bangkok Metropolis, with approximately 44 million Thais already registered under the scheme.

35. Education was also high on Thailand's social development agenda. Major educational reforms and a pilot project for 12-year universal basic education for all Thai children had been launched. Measures were being stringently enforced to deal with drug trafficking and lax law enforcement. The Government had accelerated efforts to prevent and suppress drug trafficking. While drug addicts were considered as victims to be rehabilitated, drug traffickers faced severe punishment and the death penalty. The Government worked to suppress drug production and trafficking, not only through legal measures but also at their root causes.

36. Through a project sponsored by His Majesty the King, alternative crop substitution was Thailand's key success in eradicating opium cultivation and had enabled hill-tribe people to earn sufficient income through a paradigm shift in their normal lifestyle. That success was the result of many years of hard work and dedication. Thailand had pledged to share its experiences in that regard with the Afghan people in their reconstruction and development process. Moreover, Thailand was working closely with countries in the region to address the drug threat. In particular, cooperation had been fostered at the leaders' level with China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar on the drug issue, while cooperation at the experts' level had greatly contributed to improving drug control in the region.

37. Poverty eradication was not an end in itself. What was needed was to enhance the self-sufficiency and strength of local communities and individuals to live in dignity, to attain their highest potential and to contribute to society at large. In that regard, His Majesty the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy had served as the blueprint for the country's economic and social development. That Philosophy was a way of developing the people's livelihood in harmony with local wisdom, know-how and domestic resources. It was consistent with the principles of sustainable long-term development. It had also been applied in Thailand's peacekeeping duties in East Timor. It was believed that only through sufficiency and sustainable development could peace be sustainable and long-lasting. Thailand was prepared to share its peacekeeping experiences from East Timor in the Afghanistan reconstruction process being undertaken by the international community under the auspices of the United Nations.

38. In the present world of rapid globalization and interdependence, domestic economies were interwoven with the global economic system. National development efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustained economic growth needed to be supported by a conducive and enabling international environment. That would depend on many factors, such as international financial stability, a non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system and true and non-discriminatory global economic governance. It also required enhanced coherence and consistency in the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

39. For developing countries, the lessons of self-reliance and internal clarity had to be established before moving ahead and engaging fully with the international community on an equal footing. Such lessons needed to be based primarily on domestic resources and strengths, consistent with national objectives and priorities. At the same time, a supportive and enabling external environment was needed. For its part, Thailand was going through the process of clarifying domestic priorities and objectives to serve as an important foundation for sustainable and long-term economic development. It was vital for all developing countries to embrace that process and not merely emulate any simple model that had proved successful for other countries.

Each country needed to find the model that suited it best.

40. To achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, a new partnership among developed and developing countries and multilateral organizations was imperative. In that regard, the Monterrey Consensus, adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development, outlined key areas for international cooperation in addressing the global challenges of financing for development. The Monterrey Consensus, in particular, stressed the need to ensure the effective and equitable participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, as well as in the reform process of the international financial architecture in support of development.

41. The successful conclusion of the meeting of the UNCTAD Mid-term Review process hosted by Thailand also deserved special mention. The meeting had helped UNCTAD to set priorities for its activities to meet the immediate needs of developing countries in line with the outcomes of major conferences, such as the Doha Development Agenda and the Monterrey Consensus. Most important, the meeting had highlighted the role of UNCTAD in establishing a more balanced world economy in support of development for all. The International Institute for Trade and Development at Bangkok, which was the most concrete outcome of the Bangkok Plan of Action, would be an institution through which UNCTAD could provide developing countries with trade negotiation capacity and more long-term capacity-building for the productive sector.

42. In the next few months, world leaders would gather at the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg. The Summit would be the best opportunity to renew commitments towards the common global goals of economic and social development in a way that could reduce the impact on the environment.

43. It was Thailand's fervent hope that the results of the Monterrey Conference, the UNCTAD Mid-term Review and the World Summit on Sustainable Development would complement one another to set all countries on the right path to global environmentally friendly sustainable development. All of those important meetings would form part of the international fabric for creating a conducive global environment for all nations, both developed and developing.

44. At the Boao Forum for Asia, held in China in April 2002, the Prime Minister had stressed that to achieve long-term sustainable economic and social progress in the globalized world, regional cooperation must play an important role in bringing out the best of the region, complementing individual countries' strengths and cushioning regional economies from external shocks. He was convinced that the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, proposed by Thailand, would be able to serve as an open and informal forum for the exchange of views and experiences among all government sectors on issues of common interest. What was needed was a stronger Asia that would enhance a closer partnership with Europe, America and other regions on matters of mutual interest. In that regard, the suggestion made by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to utilize ESCAP as a forum for further discussions on the Asia Cooperation Dialogue initiative was welcome.

45. Current development efforts in the Asian and Pacific region required an appropriate cooperative framework and support from multilateral and regional organizations. The important role of ESCAP in strengthening collaborative efforts among countries in the region for the well-being of their peoples was therefore most appreciated.

46. At its current session, the Commission would consider the significant management issue of revitalizing its work, including its thematic priorities and conference structure. The Prime Minister expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary, in particular, for his untiring efforts in undertaking major reforms in order to make the work of ESCAP more relevant to the rapidly changing environment of the Asian and Pacific region and more responsive to the needs of its members and associate members.

Policy issues for the ESCAP region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

47. The Executive Secretary stated that only through mutual cooperation and consultation could the noble and practical objectives of peace, security and prosperity be achieved. He noted that East Timor would be formally applying for membership in the United Nations as he spoke and he looked forward to that new country taking its place in the family of nations.

48. Economic growth had slowed sharply in most economies of the region, reigniting concerns about economic and social stability in several countries. However, in 2002 the ESCAP region should see a modest improvement over the performance in 2001 as export growth picked up. But, despite the likely improvement, any prudent assessment had to acknowledge that significant challenges and vulnerabilities remained for most economies in 2002.

49. Economic policies were not conceived in a vacuum: they had to be anchored to a commitment to fight the scourge of poverty in the region. Poverty, and the inequalities associated with it, provided a breeding ground for violence, crime, corruption and terrorism. It was economic growth that provided the resources to fight poverty. Hence, it was the responsibility of all Governments to work towards achieving sustained growth and to ensure that growth promoted, and not retarded, social cohesion. In view of that, issues of

sustainable development had been at the forefront of the global development agenda. Managing globalization was one of the three priority themes of ESCAP and sustainable development was a major component of it.

50. To better manage globalization, it was essential to bring the technological and economic forces driving globalization into harmony with the forces driving people to protect the environment and conserve natural resources. That was especially important for the ESCAP region as in the previous two decades the state of the environment had deteriorated considerably in the region. In that regard, the adoption of the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific at the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Phnom Penh in November 2001, had been a landmark achievement.

51. The Executive Secretary observed that in 2001 the Commission had decided that the theme topic for the fifty-eighth session should be "Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options". The theme study prepared by the secretariat had noted that globalization, particularly international trade and investment, had stimulated economic growth over the previous few decades. Poverty rates in the ESCAP region had been substantially reduced and in many countries employment had greatly expanded, especially for women. But the benefits of globalization had not reached all countries or groups within countries on an equal basis. The theme study further stressed that social equity was an important element in poverty reduction. Equity referred not only to income but also to greater opportunities for human capacity-building, including health, education and training. The theme study emphasized that investment in human capital and in a shift to higher levels of technology was essential not only for social development but also for healthy and sustained economic development. The social and economic empowerment of women was a key component in sustaining development.

52. The Asian economic crisis had demonstrated that the social protection systems in many countries were inadequate to prevent a temporary downturn in the economy from propelling many workers and their families into poverty. To counter that, Governments should employ social protection systems to catalyse self-sufficiency, rather than use them as piecemeal handouts for the poor. Sustainable social development could only be achieved when all groups in society, including the poor and disadvantaged, were able to participate in the development process. In that regard, it had to be recognized that population factors also played a critical role in development and, hence, in efforts to eradicate poverty. The ESCAP region had made significant strides in reducing fertility and improving the quality of life of its population. Yet there were an estimated 800 million people still living in poverty in the region. In addition, the region faced challenges resulting from rapid urbanization.

53. The Executive Secretary observed that the region faced the accelerated spread of HIV/AIDS. ESCAP, together with UNFPA, was convening the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference at Bangkok from 11 to 17 December 2002 to address issues of HIV/AIDS and poverty, population ageing and migration, urbanization and poverty. In line with the focus on poverty reduction and the dissemination of best practices, ESCAP had carried out feasibility studies in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal to assess the potential of replicating the "Saemaul Undong" strategy of rural development in the Republic of Korea. Those studies had delivered encouraging results. Also worth noting was the resolve embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of millions of slum dwellers by 2020. Through similar activities, ESCAP was also seeking to strengthen local governance in the region.

54. Helping countries to achieve the millennium development goals had become the driving force of much of the work of the United Nations system. In that connection, the establishment in the ESCAP secretariat of the Poverty Centre jointly by ESCAP and UNDP to support the achievement of the millennium development goals in the region was highlighted. The main role of the Centre was to produce early in 2003 a report on the state of progress towards the achievement of the millennium development goals in Asia and the Pacific. The Centre would spearhead ESCAP's efforts in assisting countries to reduce by half the proportion of people living in absolute poverty by 2015.

55. The Executive Secretary observed that the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, held at Doha in November 2001, had agreed on a broad programme of future negotiations. However, that outcome had brought to the fore a number of complex implications for the multilateral trading system. The most difficult decisions on the new issues had been postponed to the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, 18 months away. In view of that, ESCAP was accelerating the delivery of its trade-related technical assistance activities to member countries.

56. ICT was an important tool for empowering developing countries to further their economic and social development. The Millennium Declaration provided a compelling mandate for extending support to enable member countries to benefit from ICT. Regional cooperation in ICT was an essential plank in preparing for the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society.

57. As globalization intensified, the pressure on the region's transport system would also intensify. To help countries to address that challenge, ESCAP was committed to formulating and implementing effective programmes in the transport sector. In promoting the development of an efficient and integrated transport network, the secretariat was guided by the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

58. The Executive Secretary stated that one of his strongest desires had been to propel the economies in transition and the Pacific island economies into the mainstream of development by engaging with their leaders and officials on development issues. To that end, he had travelled to Bishkek in February 2002 and planned to visit the Pacific in July 2002 to consult with ministers from the Pacific Islands Forum countries attending the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting at Port Vila in July 2002.

59. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary updated the Commission briefly on matters concerning the revitalization of ESCAP. In 2001, the Commission had suggested that the secretariat clearly define ideas for the revitalization of ESCAP and it had requested that those ideas be submitted to the members and associate members for consideration at an intergovernmental meeting to be held prior to the fifty-eighth session of the Commission. The Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure had accordingly been convened at Bangkok from 26 to 28 March 2002. The Meeting had endorsed the Executive Secretary's proposal to focus the ESCAP programme of work on three key thematic areas: poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues. The Meeting had also supported the proposal to restructure the conference structure by establishing three thematic committees to correspond to the thematic areas. To sharpen the focus of ESCAP's work, the thematic approach was to be balanced by the establishment of eight sectoral subcommittees. Finally, within the secretariat a Change Management Team had been set up to develop a secretariat structure in line with the new programme and conference structures.

Implications of recent economic and social developments

60. The Commission had before it the document entitled "Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues" (E/ESCAP/1232 and Corr.1) and the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2002* (ST/ESCAP/2144). It commended the quality of the documentation prepared by the secretariat, which gave a comprehensive and timely analysis of the current economic situation in the region.

61. The Commission noted that the sharp decline in GDP growth in the developing countries of the region in 2001 had been triggered by a sudden reversal in the growth of ICT exports from the region, particularly from East and South-East Asia. The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 had, in their immediate aftermath, intensified the slowdown in output growth. Many countries with large tourism sectors had experienced sharp reductions in earnings and employment immediately following the 11 September events. Given the suddenness of the slowdown, growth-enhancing domestic policies had proved to be insufficient for some countries to stimulate growth in 2001. As a result, unemployment had risen, aggravating social distress in several countries. The Commission noted, however, that the adverse impact of the events of 11 September had turned out to be less severe than initially expected.

62. The Commission held the view that given the tangible signs of a revival in the global economy led by the United States, the bottoming-out of the Japanese economy and improved growth in many economies of the region, the economic prospects for the majority of the developing countries of the ESCAP region in 2002 and beyond were now more positive. Nonetheless, the region was faced with a number of challenges.

63. The greatest challenge emanated from the management of globalization, which was the subject of in-depth analysis as the year's theme topic. There was no doubt that globalization, which was a complex phenomenon with many dimensions, had opened up many opportunities for accelerated economic and social development. However, it had also revealed weaknesses in the global financial architecture, as shown by the 1997 crisis, the ensuing financial market contagion and periodic bouts of market instability since 1997. For small open economies, for instance, volatility in international prices tended to translate and magnify itself into domestic uncertainty. Moreover, in other cases geographical isolation increased the vulnerability of such economies to the forces of globalization. That was particularly true of the Pacific island economies, among others. In addition, the benefits of globalization had not been equitably distributed among all nations and all sections of society.

64. The challenge was to manage globalization so that its benefits could be more equitably shared. To that end, development should not merely focus on growth per se but on its character and distribution. A further requirement to minimize the negative effects of globalization was greater multilateral cooperation to assist developing countries in successfully integrating into the global economy. Such cooperation could be based upon greater cooperation and consultation at the regional level.

65. The Commission expressed its full support for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2000. It reiterated its commitment to facilitating the achievement of the millennium development goals with special emphasis on poverty reduction, promotion of universal primary education, empowerment of women and reduction of child and maternal mortality rates. In that context, the Commission expressed its appreciation of the establishment of the ESCAP/UNDP Poverty Centre in the Office of the Executive Secretary to support national efforts to achieve the millennium development goals. The Commission requested the secretariat to disseminate information on best practices in reducing poverty and provide technical assistance to the developing countries of the region in formulating projects for development assistance. It also emphasized that the international community would have to play its

part in facilitating the achievement of the millennium development goals by providing the necessary financial and other resources to the developing countries. In that regard, the Commission noted that the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, had signified the commitment of the international community to promoting long-term development, including new pledges by the United States and the European Union to enhance ODA in the years ahead. The need for debt relief for certain countries was highlighted by the Commission.

66. The Commission noted that policies for combating poverty should ensure the empowerment of deprived and disadvantaged groups of society and deal with the causes of poverty, such as low economic growth, severe inflation, unemployment and unequal distribution of opportunities at the national, regional and international levels. In that context, the generation of productive employment, entrepreneurship development, human resources development, the strengthening of infrastructure and the provision of the required opportunities for the poor in rural and urban areas in the fields of education, ICT and other basic services were highlighted.

67. The Commission emphasized the integration of economic, social and environmental initiatives to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. Poverty remained the top challenge confronting many countries in the region. Economic development constituted the precondition for poverty alleviation. However, its equitable distribution was important so that all groups of people shared the benefits. Moreover, sustained and stable economic development could not be achieved without effective environmental protection and social development.

68. The Commission expressed appreciation of the launch of the Doha Development Agenda and the adoption of the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference. It confirmed its commitment to a transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system but cautioned that new negotiations could only be successful if the concerns of developing countries were adequately and appropriately addressed and reflected in a transparent, non-discriminatory and consistent manner. It urged the secretariat to provide WTO developing member countries with the necessary technical assistance to build their capacity for effective participation in the new multilateral trade negotiations and assist aspiring members by facilitating their accession to WTO on a case-by-case basis.

69. While recognizing that ICT and the knowledge-based economy were developing rapidly, the Commission felt that constraints in education, particularly in ICT, and in the scientific and technological capacity of many developing countries might result in a digital divide and a widening of the knowledge gap between developing and developed countries. It stressed that concerted efforts were needed to assist developing countries, and the economies in transition, in acquiring, developing and applying ICT and other advanced technologies, and in building their technological capacity, particularly human resources, in order to facilitate their active participation in a knowledge-based economy and maximize the potential benefits of ICT. The Commission requested the secretariat to address the problem of the digital divide urgently, particularly through assistance in policy formulation and capacity-building to the developing countries and the economies in transition.

70. The Commission recognized that relevant and consistent statistics were needed for planning, developing and implementing programmes and for their objective assessment. It noted requests from various countries for the development of national statistical capacity in the collection and dissemination of data for policy purposes.

71. The Commission stressed that the availability of basic physical infrastructure was a prerequisite to initiate sustained economic growth, eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the people. In that context, many delegations apprised the Commission of initiatives that they had taken in developing rural transport infrastructure as an entry point in the poverty alleviation process. The Commission noted that in many countries the poor quality of roads, railways, ports, airports and telecommunications was a critical hindrance to trade and investment. It also noted that facilitating the efficient movement of goods and people and reducing transport costs were vital elements in achieving competitiveness in global markets. The need to create an environment to promote the facilitation of transit traffic of landlocked developing countries, reduce transit transport costs and improve the efficiency of international trade and transport by eliminating institutional and physical bottlenecks was recognized. The Commission supported the focus of the report of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held at Seoul in November 2001, in that it raised awareness of the benefits of improving the integration of transport operations in the region.

72. The Commission drew attention to the importance of intraregional and interregional transport linkages and the significant contribution that the Asian land transport infrastructure development project was making towards developing those linkages.

73. The Commission recognized that in the wake of liberalization and with increasing demands being placed on public sector funds, there was an increasing role for the private sector. In the area of financing for infrastructure development, the delegation of Malaysia reiterated its proposal for an infrastructure tax on developed countries to assist in financing the development of infrastructure in developing countries.

74. The Commission noted the importance attached by Central Asian countries to the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia as a framework for intensifying subregional and regional cooperation and promoting stability and mutual confidence in the region.

75. The Commission noted with concern the acute problems being faced by Afghanistan as a result of prolonged war. Millions of people had become refugees and infrastructure had been destroyed or damaged. The need for international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan was emphasized. International support for building the new nation of East Timor was also stressed.

76. The Commission commended the Inter-governmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure, ACPR and the secretariat on the groundwork they had done to review the Commission's programme and conference structure. That effort was in congruence with the broader goal of adapting the work and structure of the United Nations to the needs of the future, particularly the realization of the millennium development goals. The Commission also commended the leadership and focus that the Executive Secretary had brought to ESCAP. It agreed that his proposal to restructure ESCAP around the three themes of reducing poverty, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues would contribute to the revitalization of ESCAP, enabling it to become a key organization capable of helping the region to meet the current social and economic challenges. In order for the reform effort to be successful, ESCAP would need to become demand-driven and output-oriented and seek to maximize added value in its activities.

77. The Commission noted that ESCAP was in a unique position to play a leading role not only as a think tank but also as an initiator of projects in the field of economic and social development. In the process, ESCAP should seek to revitalize its ties with member States as well as forge close relationships with regional development organizations and the private sector. In that context, ESCAP could develop project formulation skills for tapping financial resources from international institutions for economic and social projects. The contribution of ESCAP in the area of technical assistance to the Pacific island economies and least developed countries was emphasized. In that connection, the Commission stressed the need to strengthen the Pacific Operations Centre and make the Special Bodies more effective.

78. The Commission noted with pleasure the announcement by the head of the Chinese delegation that China would host the sixtieth session of the Commission at Shanghai in 2004. The Chinese delegation also announced the relocation of the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery from Bangkok to Beijing and its upgrading to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery.

79. The Commission noted with appreciation the collaboration between France and ESCAP in promoting sustainable development through various projects, including an ongoing project on capacity-building for disaster management using space technology.

Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options

80. The Commission commended the secretariat on the quality of the theme study and welcomed its recommendations. It noted the timeliness and relevance of the study, given the significant economic and social impact, potential and challenges of globalization processes in the region.

81. The Commission stressed that it was necessary for globalization to be properly managed if all countries and population groups were to benefit equally from the expanded opportunities for sustained social and economic progress.

82. It noted that while income poverty had declined during the 1990s, it had increased temporarily in East and South-East Asia as a result of the Asian economic crisis which had begun in 1997. The number of persons living on less than US$ 1 per day had increased in South Asia. The Commission recognized that the concept of poverty included not only inadequate income levels but also deprivation of the essential assets and opportunities to which every individual should be entitled. It observed that over two thirds of the poor in the region resided in rural areas and that women constituted a disproportionate share of the poor.

83. The Commission emphasized the importance of achieving the goals and targets adopted by the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000 and of progress towards the priority areas of poverty reduction, employment expansion and social integration agreed at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995.

84. The Commission stressed that poverty reduction required a comprehensive approach incorporating attention to health, education, social protection, population and environmental policies in the context of economic development. It emphasized that economic growth must be accompanied by equitable distribution so that all segments of society benefited from development. Investment in human capital was a key element in sustainable social development.

85. The Commission observed that those few developing economies that had participated most actively in the global economic processes of trade and investment had experienced the most significant expansion in overall employment. In contrast, employment in fast-growing populations had merely

paralleled population growth. Economic growth had resulted in significant shifts in employment away from agriculture to industry and services in all parts of the ESCAP region. Furthermore, there had been an increase in work in the informal sector.

86. The Commission noted that women had achieved great gains in employment over the previous two decades. However, much female employment had been in low-skilled and low-wage jobs, including in the informal sector. Women were the most vulnerable to job losses during economic downturns.

87. The Commission stressed that employment expansion was the most effective means of reducing poverty. It noted that globalization affected older and less well-educated workers to a greater extent as economies went through structural changes and became increasingly knowledge-based. Sound education, continuing skills training and retraining were required to enable workers to adjust to such changes. Effective employment generation strategies needed to take account of country-specific conditions in terms of their respective resource base, labour and market requirements.

88. The Commission stressed that, while globalization had contributed to economic growth in many parts of the region, in many cases economic and social disparities between and within countries had increased. It observed that persons living in rural or remote areas, people with disabilities, people affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, women and older persons were frequently excluded from the benefits of globalization. The potential for social unrest arising from deprivation and the marginalization of vulnerable groups was a threat to social stability and sustainable development. The Commission stressed that such groups could be included in mainstream development only through their empowerment and participation in the decision-making that shaped their lives. Globalization processes, through better networking and information access, could improve the ability of both government and civil society to promote social inclusion.

89. The Commission underscored the need to move beyond declarations and requested the secretariat to support efforts focusing on practical action to reduce poverty and enhance social integration. It stressed the need to remove barriers to the social integration and equal participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including women, children, older persons and people with disabilities. Poverty, poor health, lack of education, skills and employment and various forms of discrimination had to be addressed. Access to and delivery of social infrastructure and services, including in remote areas, should be improved.

90. The Commission reiterated that promoting the full and equal participation of people with disabilities was an important aspect of social integration and welcomed efforts to extend the regional framework on disability for another 10 years (2003-2012). The support of the Government of Japan in hosting the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, at Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, Japan, in October 2002 and by establishing the Asian and Pacific Development Centre on Disability, at Bangkok, in cooperation with the Government of Thailand, was appreciated.

91. The Commission stressed the importance of the collection of appropriate data on people with disabilities and noted that the development of people with disabilities was a crucial part of development. It further emphasized the importance of accessible infrastructure, particularly in the tourism industry, to encourage tourism of people with disabilities, and their employment in tourism and other industries.

92. The Commission recognized that HIV/AIDS was an issue of vital importance for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region. It drew attention to the growth of the epidemic in Asia and the Pacific and the increasing number of people living with HIV/AIDS, which was currently estimated at 7.5 million. It emphasized that HIV/AIDS was not simply a health issue but rather a multisectoral development issue that needed to be addressed at all levels. It held the view that ESCAP could play a significant role in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in relevant economic and social development policies and programmes and in promoting the sharing of good practices in HIV prevention, care and support among countries and areas in the region.

93. The Commission emphasized that effective governance at all levels and the decentralization and devolution of responsibility and authority were important, particularly to promote the empowerment of communities and harness their potential for development. Various delegations shared their successful experiences in community empowerment, including participatory planning at the local level and the use of a social audit to encourage accountability.

94. The Commission stressed that special attention should be paid to mainstreaming gender issues for sustainable social development. Although women constituted half the population, their concerns were often neglected in development programmes and they received much less assistance and fewer opportunities than men. Particular attention must be given to the specific problems and life patterns of girls and women when social development and social protection policies and programmes were being developed.

95. The Commission underscored the importance of establishing effective systems of social protection to counter the macroeconomic shocks and vulnerabilities associated with globalization and to prevent impoverishment from sudden loss of employment or other income support. It noted that rapid population ageing was placing additional strains on the ability of social protection systems to provide for the income security, health care and other needs of older persons.

96. The Commission recognized the challenges posed by rapid globalization and demographic and labour market changes to the effective delivery and financing of social protection schemes.

97. Several delegations elaborated on measures which their countries had taken to expand access to, and the coverage of, existing social security and protection programmes. There was a need to extend coverage to informal sector workers and rural dwellers and ensure gender equality and effective targeting of services to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants and those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

98. The Commission stressed that increased participation and the adequate provision of social services, including social protection, were critical to promote socially inclusive human development, reduce poverty and support enhanced productivity and growth. Close collaboration was therefore needed to ensure that social development and other economic and environmental policies were consistent and mutually supportive. The Commission recognized that integrated and coordinated national policies for sustainable social development must be established.

99. The Commission underscored the importance of increasing budgetary allocations to the social sector and improving the efficiency of social spending. It noted that partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations would widen the resource base as well as promote the greater social mobilization required to achieve social development goals.

100. The Commission also stressed the importance of an enabling international environment, including better terms of trade and increased aid and technical assistance, for strengthening the capacity of developing countries to finance social sector expenditures. It noted with appreciation the contribution of the Government of Japan of US$ 155 million to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security. It recalled the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for overall ODA agreed in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development in 1995.

101. The Commission recognized that ICT was a key enabler of globalization. It stressed that such technology could promote the empowerment of the rural poor by creating employment opportunities and improving the access of the poor to training, health care, credit, market information and other services. It therefore stressed the importance of the provision of access to ICT, especially through telecommunications services, at affordable prices to all people, particularly in rural areas, in order to attain the goal of accelerated economic development and social change. In that regard, it noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of India to host the Asia-Pacific Telecommunications Standards Institute and called for the necessary arrangements to be made.

102. The Commission stressed that, in promoting ICT for the empowerment of the poor, special attention should be given to the needs of women, youth and persons with disabilities during the development and implementation of projects. Liberalization of the telecommunications sector could expand connectivity dramatically and reduce costs, but strategic government investment or regulatory measures were needed in disadvantaged areas to induce greater private sector participation and benefits to people.

103. The Commission noted that ESCAP could play a significant role in promoting human resources development, the regional exchange of country experiences on pro-poor ICT initiatives and the identification, review and dissemination of best practices or successful models in the application of ICT for rural poverty alleviation in the region. ESCAP could collaborate with other international development agencies to provide assistance to developing countries in the region, especially with regard to identifying strategic options, implementing related pilot projects at the national level, building capacity and disseminating information on the lessons learned at the regional level.

104. The Commission emphasized that ESCAP, as the only region-wide development agency for Asia and the Pacific, was in a unique position to assist its members and associate members in promoting integrated socio-economic development. ESCAP could assist them in identifying and implementing their own solutions to development issues. The Commission called upon the secretariat to develop country-specific programmes of assistance, assessing and responding to the particular needs and requests of individual countries. In that regard, it called for assistance to be better tailored to the specific needs of the least developed, landlocked and small island countries.

105. The Commission urged the secretariat to focus its efforts on assisting capacity-building at the national level to address the above-mentioned social challenges and areas of concern in the context of globalization. It requested funding and technical support by concerned Governments to enable ESCAP to provide technical and advisory services, training and the sharing of good practices, and to promote regional cooperation. The Commission also recommended that the secretariat move beyond those traditional approaches and assist members in developing project formulation skills for tapping financial resources from international institutions for economic and social projects. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the secretariat's efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation, including through third-country training programmes to forge cooperation among countries in the region. It also welcomed the continuing support of bilateral donors and multilateral partnerships in addressing pertinent social development issues towards the achievement of more sustainable social and economic development.

106. The Commission noted with appreciation the cooperation with ESCAP and the contributions of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to efforts to promote sustainable social development in Asia and the Pacific.

Regional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

107. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1234, containing the report on the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It recognized the importance of the World Summit, which was being organized at a crucial juncture in an era of rapid globalization, for the Asian and Pacific region, where over half of the world's population and two thirds of the world's poor lived. The Commission emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to assist developing countries and economies in transition in pursuing sustainable development objectives.

108. The Commission supported the outcome of the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, organized by ESCAP and held at Phnom Penh from 27 to 29 November 2001, in particular, the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific. It expressed strong support for the following seven key regional initiatives outlined in the Platform: capacity-building for sustainable development; poverty reduction for sustainable development; cleaner production and sustainable energy; land management and biodiversity conservation; protection and management of and access to freshwater resources; oceans, coastal and marine resources and sustainable development of small island States; and action on atmosphere and climate change. The Commission stressed the need to translate those initiatives into action. It noted the request for adequate financial and technical support to assist developing countries, in particular, least developed countries, small island developing States and economies in transition to enable them to address the special problems they faced. It also attached importance to the continued implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Kitakyushu, Japan, from 31 August to 5 September 2000. It called upon members and associate members of ESCAP to extend their full support and cooperation.

109. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the successful outcome of the regional preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and stressed the important role of ESCAP as the regional organization in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the World Summit.

Management issues

Implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission

110. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1235, containing the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure.

111. The Commission expressed its full support for the revitalization efforts of ESCAP, which aimed to enhance its capacity to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of its members and associate members in the context of globalization and the changing regional economic and social environment. It believed that in order to achieve that goal, ESCAP should identify priorities and sharpen its focus accordingly, taking into account the resource limitations. Revitalization efforts were particularly important in the broader context of the second wave of the reform of the United Nations introduced by the Secretary-General. Furthermore, ESCAP should build on its expertise and comparative advantages and avoid duplicating the work of other agencies.

112. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting concerning the programme structure, under which the work of the Commission would be focused on three key thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues. It also stressed the importance of ensuring coherence between the thematic and sectoral approaches to ESCAP activities. The Commission endorsed the general thrust and focus areas of the three key thematic areas as well as the eight subprogrammes and welcomed and endorsed the secretariat's proposal to merge two subprogrammes into one, with the aim of producing greater coherence between the policy and operational work of the Commission in poverty reduction. It suggested that ESCAP's future programme of work be developed in line with those focus areas and remain needs-based and demand-driven. It was also suggested that ESCAP further enhance its operational activities aimed at strengthening regional and subregional cooperation and national capacity-building and promoting the exchange of experiences; it should also continue to provide policy recommendations. The importance of strengthening the monitoring and evaluation functions within the secretariat was also highlighted as a means of assessing the impact of the ESCAP programme of work and fine-tuning its implementation accordingly. Furthermore, the Commission called on the secretariat to increase its efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources while making every effort to deploy its scarce resources optimally for maximum returns.

113. The Commission reiterated the need to pay special attention to the particular problems and issues facing the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. It also stressed the need to develop appropriate programmes, including increased technical assistance, and tailor those programmes in support of the development of such countries. In that connection, it was suggested that the capacity and coordination functions of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre could be strengthened.

114. The Commission expressed its support for the proposed new conference structure, according to which three thematic committees would be established along with eight sectoral subcommittees. It noted that such a conference structure would ensure a better balance between thematic and sectoral priorities, allowing ESCAP to sharpen the focus of its work within the framework of the three programmatic themes. The Commission also welcomed the secretariat's plan to improve the meeting format and contents, as well as the documentation, for the subsidiary bodies of the Commission so as to enhance the functioning of the new conference structure.

115. Many delegations shared the concerns of the secretariat over the substantive and budgetary implications arising from the inclusion by the Intergovernmental Meeting of additional programme elements in the draft terms of reference of the thematic committees. However, while generally agreeing that the focus of the new priority areas of ESCAP should not be blurred, a few delegations wished to retain some additional elements in the terms of reference in the light of the specific needs of their countries. In that regard, it was pointed out that the secretariat could continue to provide ad hoc advisory services and other relevant assistance in response to the expressed needs of individual countries in non-priority areas. In that context, the secretariat clarified that it would respond to any specific request for assistance in the mineral sector. It was also suggested that since it would not be possible to address all the programme areas contained in the terms of reference, owing to budgetary limitations, further prioritization would be needed, taking into account the overall needs of the members and associate members of the Commission.

116. The Commission welcomed the proposal of the Intergovernmental Meeting to undertake a mid-term review in 2005 to monitor the effectiveness of the new conference structure and make adjustments, as required.

117. The Commission noted that the ensuing reorganization of the secretariat would be undertaken under the direction of the Executive Secretary and requested that the internal change process be conducted in a transparent manner and that members and associate members be kept fully informed.

118. The Commission acknowledged that the revitalization effort was not an end in itself. It stressed, therefore, that the new programme and conference structures should be put into operation in a flexible and practical manner that would enable ESCAP to respond to the needs of its members and associate members more effectively and efficiently.

119. The Commission adopted resolution 58/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission.

Programme planning

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

120. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1236 on the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 in respect of programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.

121. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the current medium-term plan had been endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, in June 2000, prior to the adoption by the General Assembly of the Millennium Declaration in September 2000, and that the Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure, held at Bangkok from 26 to 28 March 2002, had endorsed the focusing of ESCAP's programme within three key thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues, including the general thrust and focus areas of those thematic areas. It also endorsed the following eight subprogrammes: 1. Poverty and development policy analysis; 2. Statistics; 3. Poverty reduction practices; 4. International trade, industry and investment; 5. Transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism; 6. Environment and sustainable development; 7. Information, communications and space technology; and 8. Emerging social issues. Having reviewed the programmatic implications and taking into consideration the directive of the Secretary-General on the second wave of the reform of the United Nations, which called for the structural reorganization of programmes, the secretariat proposed further rationalization of the programme by merging subprogramme 1. Poverty and development policy analysis and subprogramme 3. Poverty reduction practices into one subprogramme entitled "Poverty and development".

122. The Commission welcomed the reorientation of the programme in line with the three key thematic areas and the objective of enhancing the capacity of the members and associate members to design and implement policies and strategies which were pro-poor, allowed them to maximize the benefits from globalization and promoted equal opportunities for the productive participation of all social groups and overall improvement of the quality of life. The Commission also welcomed the merging of the two subprogrammes,

"Poverty and development policy analysis" and "Poverty reduction practices", into one subprogramme entitled "Poverty and development", with the aim of promoting greater coherence between the policy and operational work of the Commission on poverty reduction.

123. The Commission supported the overall strategy in meeting the programme objectives as contained in seven interdependent and complementary subprogrammes clustered under the three key thematic areas as follows: *Poverty reduction*: subprogramme 1. Poverty and development and subprogramme 2. Statistics; *Managing globalization*: subprogramme 3. Trade and investment, subprogramme 4. Transport and tourism, subprogramme 5. Environment and sustainable development and subprogramme 6. Information, communications and space technology; and *Addressing emerging social issues*: subprogramme 7. Emerging social issues. It was generally agreed that the introduction of the three key thematic areas would help to sharpen the focus of the programme.

124. The Commission expected that the programme would concentrate on economic and social development activities that contributed to the improvement of the life of the poor and the disadvantaged groups. It requested the secretariat to respond to the special needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, which faced problems relating to the promotion of trade and investment. Based on past achievements in the implementation of the programme of work, the secretariat had gained recognition from the members and associate members for its achievements in the areas related to trade and investment, transport and tourism and environment and sustainable development. It was therefore suggested that further importance be given to the work pertaining to the relevant subprogrammes, which would contribute significantly to economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific and subsequently to poverty reduction. The Commission felt that the work pertaining to the subprogramme on emerging social issues would contribute to the capacity-building of national and local personnel and institutions in developing and promoting the implementation of relevant policies and programmes. In relation to paragraph 15.38, the Commission requested that greater focus be placed on assisting people with disabilities. While much had been achieved through the work carried out by the secretariat within the framework of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, more challenges existed for people with disabilities, particularly those in the least developed countries and the countries affected by the economic downturn.

125. The Commission endorsed the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. In order to bring into effect the new programme structure set out in the revisions to the medium-term plan without further delay, it endorsed the realignment of the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003.

Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001

126. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1237 and Corr.1. It noted with satisfaction the overview of the implementation of the programme of work and the achievements attained through the implementation of programmed activities and projects under the seven subprogrammes. It expressed appreciation of the balanced approach taken by the secretariat in carrying out both analytical and operational activities. The Commission welcomed the secretariat's initiative in launching the annual *Bulletin on Asia-Pacific Perspectives* to provide timely assessment of the developments in the global economy and their impact and implications for various economies or groups of economies within the region. It also acknowledged the usefulness of the *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2000* and the *Review of Developments in Transport and Communications in the ESCAP Region 1996-2001*.

127. The Commission commended the secretariat's efforts in implementing activities aimed at helping the members and associate members to respond more effectively and efficiently to the changing global environment. It noted with satisfaction that the programme of work pertaining to regional economic cooperation had strengthened national capacity to deal with the economic volatility associated with participation in the globalization process and had enhanced trade efficiency to increase competitiveness in the international marketplace in the era of globalization. The Commission requested that more concerted efforts and significant activities in trade and investment be implemented to provide training and increase competitiveness in facing the process of globalization and liberalization.

128. The Commission held the view that the programme of work implemented by the secretariat for poverty alleviation had enhanced national capacity to plan and deliver services to meet the basic needs of the poor and provide them with the skills and foundation to enable them to participate more meaningfully in their national development. Referring to the close linkage between poverty alleviation and the increase in the educational level, it suggested that ESCAP could focus on providing education and expertise in the efforts to reduce the overall poverty level of the members and associate members.

129. With regard to the programme of work pertaining to social development, the Commission felt that more initiatives could be taken by ESCAP to develop national capacity for the implementation of strategies relating to gender mainstreaming to promote gender equality and strengthen the role of women in national development.

130. The Commission noted with satisfaction the increased joint activities undertaken by the secretariat

with various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. Several delegations encouraged ESCAP to seek active collaboration with the private sector, especially in promoting trade and industry, poverty reduction and infrastructure development, in pursuance of the Global Compact initiated by the Secretary-General in 1999.

131. The Commission noted the proposal by one delegation that the secretariat should report on the implementation of the programme of work in a tabular format, covering all programmed activities, including those which remained unimplemented. The proposal also called for the active participation of the members and associate members, through ACPR or by other means, in carrying out needs assessment for high-priority and large-scale projects requested by the members and associate members as well as by the secretariat. It was hoped that such needs assessment would help ESCAP to launch programme activities that responded more effectively and efficiently to the development needs of its members and associate members, while also enhancing transparency and accountability in the implementation of the programme of work of ESCAP.

Proposed programme changes for 2002-2003

132. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1238 and Corr.1. It noted that the proposed programme changes for 2002-2003 were timely and in line with the outcome of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure, and the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. The Commission welcomed the reallocation of the available resources from activities of lesser priority to newly identified high-priority activities in line with the three key themes.

133. The Commission noted the activities suggested by the Government of India as follows: (a) technical assistance and capacity-building to help developing members and associate members to evaluate the implications of various WTO issues under the multilateral framework and enable them to identify their negotiating interests and options; (b) technical assistance to enable the members and associate members to fulfil their obligations and realize their benefits under the existing WTO agreements; (c) a seminar/workshop at New Delhi to share India's experience, including technical issues in regional and preferential trading arrangements, with ESCAP members and associate members; (d) studies on the harmonization of customs documentation, procedures and valuations among the Greater Mekong Subregion countries; (e) the identification and harmonization of economic and trade complementarities to facilitate enterprise and entrepreneurship development in the SME sector; (f) a regional conference on negotiations on maritime transport services; (g) implementation of the Asia-Pacific road accident database project; (h) a national workshop on practical application of the manual for evaluating the impact of targeted poverty alleviation programmes in India; (i) a seminar/workshop on developing an appropriate regulatory framework conducive to public/private partnership in the areas of transport involving all stakeholders; (j) the provision by India of support services in remote sensing and satellite communications to ESCAP members and associate members; (k) a workshop to identify cost-effective measures and strategies and share experiences pertaining to technological improvements for reducing the wastage of water and improving the productivity and quality of water; and (l) seminars/workshops regarding the sharing of best practices on appropriate recharge techniques and the management of groundwater, especially in coastal tracts and for island States. The Commission also noted with appreciation the offer by the Government of India to provide technical assistance in undertaking items (b), (j) and (k).

134. The Commission noted the proposal by one delegation to retain the training course on negotiating and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and strengthening environmental management systems for SMEs (work programme code 1-4-210), in the light of the great usefulness of the activity.

135. The Commission endorsed the programme changes for 2002-2003 and also the realignment of the programme of work for 2002-2003, in line with the new programme structure proposed in the revised medium-term plan.

Tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2002-March 2003

136. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1239. It approved the tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes for the period April 2002-March 2003 as contained in the document.

Emerging issues and developments at the regional level

Regional economic cooperation

137. The Commission had before it the report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its thirteenth meeting (E/ESCAP/1240), a document on emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation (E/ESCAP/1241) and the reports on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/1242) and the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/1243). The Commission expressed appreciation of the comprehensive and high-quality documentation provided.

Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its thirteenth meeting

138. The Commission noted that the approach taken by the Steering Group was to focus on particular subregions and welcomed the fact that the focus of the fourteenth meeting of the Steering Group would be on issues related to trade and investment in South Asia, including the Islamic Republic of Iran.

139. The Commission endorsed the recommendations adopted by the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation at its thirteenth meeting, held at Hanoi in November 2001. In particular, it stressed that countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion should strengthen their capabilities for improved intrasubregional and intersubregional trade and investment flows and integration into the multilateral trading system. It urged the secretariat, in cooperation with other subregional, regional and multilateral agencies, to continue its technical assistance activities in those areas, with particular reference to Commission resolution 56/1 of 7 June 2000 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009.

140. The Commission recognized the need for countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion to improve their international competitiveness. It emphasized the importance of its resolutions 57/4 of 25 April 2001 on regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development and 57/5 of 25 April 2001 on the integration of Asian and Pacific developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system and requested that the secretariat accord priority to the implementation of those resolutions.

141. The Commission noted the importance of FDI in the economic development process of countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion and other countries in the region. It recommended that countries maintain economic and political stability and upgrade their infrastructure, including legal infrastructure, to provide an enabling environment for FDI. It requested that the secretariat organize workshops to exchange the best practices and positive experiences of countries that had attracted FDI.

142. The Commission noted the need for stronger cooperation among countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion at both the government and business levels. In that context, the development of so-called economic corridors was of particular importance. It was proposed that an intergovernmental mechanism for trade and investment consultation be set up within the framework of the Greater Mekong Subregion to formulate policy measures for sustained trade and investment liberalization, while legal safeguards were required to ensure the active cooperation of the private sector.

143. There was also a need to strengthen subregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation and information, including the removal of non-tariff barriers and the harmonization of customs procedures. The Commission recommended that countries set up national information and database networks and a common information system on trade and investment with ESCAP assistance and welcomed the pledge of assistance from China in that area.

144. While subregional cooperation was important, the Commission noted that there was a need to link the Greater Mekong Subregion programme with national development plans to ensure consistency and maximize impact, while the Subregion's programme in trade and investment and cooperation in general should also link up with other regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area, Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation, ECO, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the planned China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, as well as the multilateral trading system as a whole.

Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation

145. In view of the irreversible nature of globalization and interdependence among countries, the challenges facing the region were how to manage the risks and seize the opportunities of globalization such that the benefits from it could be shared more equitably.

146. In noting that international trade was playing an increasingly important role in integrating countries into the world economy, the Commission reaffirmed its strong commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system that operated in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner and ensured predictable and secure market access. That was fundamental to the expansion of trade, increased economic prosperity and balanced development in the region.

147. The Commission noted that the work programme adopted at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference placed the concerns of developing countries at its centre. However, it noted further that the wide variety of issues covered had deep and complex implications for the global and regional trading regimes. In that regard, detailed study and careful preparation by members and associate members of ESCAP would be needed if developing country-friendly results were to be achieved.

148. The Commission noted that the Doha Ministerial Declaration covered a wide range of subjects, some of which, notably the Singapore issues, were sensitive. Furthermore, it noted the view that the Doha outcome reflected a painstakingly negotiated balance and that the balance should be maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Doha Declaration. Explicit consensus among countries should be necessary.

149. The Commission stressed that implementation-related concerns were a key issue in ongoing negotiations, as many of its members and associate members continued to experience difficulties in implementing their obligations. Among the major concerns of developing countries were issues related to dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures, dispute settlement procedures and the textile and clothing sector.

150. The Commission welcomed the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and its emphasis on the implementation of TRIPS in a way that supported public health by promoting both access to existing medicines and the creation of new medicines.

151. The Commission noted that the reduction of all forms of export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic support, with a view to phasing them out, was expected to bring substantial improvements for agricultural exports of the region.

152. The Commission noted that enhanced market access, through the reduction of tariff escalation and tariff peaks on those products in which developing countries were traditionally competitive, was an important issue for the region in ongoing WTO negotiations. Furthermore, since it had been recognized at Doha that ILO was the appropriate forum for labour issues, attempts to link non-trade issues to WTO rules should continue to be resisted as they could act as potential non-tariff barriers, thus negating market access opportunities arising from tariff reductions. The need for transparency, consistency and stability in the proceedings of the Ministerial Conference and its preparatory process was re-emphasized.

153. The Commission stressed that ongoing negotiations in the service sector had important development implications, and in that regard it noted the view that greater commitment by developed countries in GATS mode 4, relating to the movement of natural persons, as well as negotiations on emergency safeguard measures would make a positive contribution to development in the region.

154. The Commission noted that special and differential provisions had been mainstreamed into the work programme adopted as part of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. It also noted the view that WTO special and differential provisions should be operationalized and made mandatory, as that would give countries at varying levels of development greater flexibility in adopting development-related policy instruments.

155. The Commission expressed concern that, despite the principle of universality, only about half of its members and associate members were members of WTO. It noted with concern that the WTO accession process continued to be a long and arduous one, especially for least developed countries. It stressed that WTO accession procedures and practices should be streamlined. Furthermore, it noted the view that obligations required of countries in the process of accession should not exceed the level of commitments undertaken by existing WTO members. The Commission commended the secretariat for its work on facilitating the accession of those countries to WTO through the regular exchange of country experiences and enhanced intraregional and interregional economic cooperation. It requested the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to such activities, including the preparation of a practicable formulation for each country desiring to join WTO.

156. The Commission stressed that a critical element in a country's ability to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system was its human resource capacity. Therefore, in order for developing countries to seize the opportunities offered by Doha, the provision and delivery of technical assistance needed to be accelerated. The Commission commended the secretariat for its ongoing work and reiterated its support for the positive role that the secretariat, in collaboration with WTO, UNCTAD and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, could play in the future. It requested the secretariat to accord high priority to activities that enhanced understanding and promoted a regional policy dialogue on the evolving trading system, particularly with regard to the new issues. It also requested that further technical assistance and capacity-building inputs be provided to improve knowledge of WTO rules and enhance negotiating techniques, for the fuller and more effective participation of developing countries, and particularly economies in transition, in the multilateral trading system.

157. The Commission requested the secretariat to take the necessary measures for the early implementation of its resolution 57/5.

158. The Commission noted with appreciation the readiness of the Government of Japan to provide assistance in promoting regional cooperation in trade and investment, in particular, capacity-building to encourage accession to WTO.

159. The Commission recognized that in the context of a rapidly globalizing world, enhanced regional cooperation in trade and investment had an important role to play in the region's economic development, enhancing integration into the world economy and cushioning the impact of external shocks and instabilities. It expressed the view that strategies and measures to build supply capacity for enhancing trade competitiveness were important. It noted that technical assistance should be designed to facilitate trade and investment flows and increase the participation of developing countries and economies in transition in the regional and world economies.

160. The Commission recommended that the secretariat undertake further studies and disseminate best practices and technical suggestions on the

harmonization of customs documentation, procedures and customs valuation in order to increase trade efficiency.

161. The Commission highlighted the importance of trade and investment information services as a means of enhancing the trade efficiency of members and associate members and suggested that such services be strengthened.

162. It also noted the sharp upsurge of regional trading arrangements in the recent past. For the most part, the arrangements were outward-oriented and based on principles of open regionalism and a step towards full multilateralism. Nevertheless, further study was required and the Commission requested the secretariat to undertake an assessment of the experiences emerging from the regional trading arrangements, their impact on trade and investment flows and their implications for the multilateral trading system. Further study was also required on future developments, especially with regard to emerging cross-continental trade arrangements.

163. The Commission held the view that, as ICT was one of the main driving forces of globalization, it had a significant effect on the comparative advantage of regional and subregional competitiveness because of its enormous economic and social implications. While it brought significant changes to markets, production, services and skill requirements, as well as expanded educational opportunities, and improved the quality of life, there were also risks associated with its use. The Commission noted that the secretariat would work out possible means to mitigate the risks, in particular, with respect to social issues. The Commission further noted that the new paradigm of ICT made it necessary for Governments to ensure universal access to information by all citizens and fulfil the mandate of citizens' right to information as well as to bridge the digital divide.

164. The Commission stressed the need to create a favourable policy framework conducive to the adoption and diffusion of ICT development incorporating the requisite technological capability and competent human resources, in particular, as well as the creation of ICT infrastructure at the national, subregional and regional levels.

165. It also stressed the importance of human resources development and capacity-building for the application and utilization of ICT, including electronic commerce, and recommended that the secretariat continue to assist countries of the region in improving their capacity-building in the sphere of ICT and in developing institutional and technical infrastructure, as well as in other areas referred to in its resolution 57/4.

166. It noted with appreciation the activities of the secretariat in strengthening the technological and industrial capabilities of SMEs, especially in promoting technology incubation systems for the creation of technology-based enterprises. It recommended that the secretariat take further initiatives to promote business and technology incubation programmes.

167. The Commission recognized the importance of economic and trade complimentarities and recommended that the secretariat undertake a study to identify such relationships, with particular emphasis on the implications for enterprise and entrepreneurship development in the SME sector, including the microfinancing aspects of enterprises.

168. The representative of the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises noted the close cooperation between the secretariat and the Association in the past and proposed that ESCAP and the Association could collaborate in conducting training programmes to promote SME competitiveness and sustainability.

169. The Commission recognized the relevance of intellectual property in an increasingly broad range of areas, from the Internet to health care and nearly all aspects of science and technology, literature and the arts. It was important to understand the role of intellectual property in economic development and to that end, the Commission noted that continued close cooperation between ESCAP and the World Intellectual Property Organization could be beneficial for a better understanding of those issues by members and associate members.

170. The Commission noted that the Asian Clearing Union continued to facilitate trade among its members and to promote the expansion of its membership. In those efforts, it was exploring areas of possible cooperation with other subregional organizations.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

171. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) as contained in the report on the Centre (E/ESCAP/1242).

172. It expressed appreciation of the useful activities of the Centre in technology capacity-building and innovation, and in promoting the upgrading and modernization of SMEs, as well as subregional and regional networking to assist member countries in responding effectively to the challenges posed through integration into the new global economy. It also commended the facilitative role which the Centre was playing through its programmes in R and D community and enterprise cooperation, nurturing technological entrepreneurship through science and technology parks and technology incubators, and felt that the Centre should further intensify its efforts in those areas.

173. The Commission recognized the priority attention given by the Centre in its focus on five important thrust areas: technology transfer support services for SMEs; capacity-building in technology management and innovation; the provision of information on environmentally sound technologies and management; emerging technologies; and women entrepreneurship development. Those areas were considered to be of immediate relevance to the region. The Commission welcomed the cooperation established

with national and regional institutions in the field of technology transfer.

174. In view of the globalization process and the shift to a knowledge-based economy, the Commission duly recognized the timely initiatives of the Centre to embark on technology-related activities in the fields of ICT, biotechnology and nanotechnology and APCTT was requested to implement a project on the establishment of a biotechnology information network in Asia.

175. The Centre was directed to continue and strengthen its activities related to the promotion of environmentally sound technologies for SMEs, and in doing so, to take advantage of greater cooperation between the Centre and the Technical Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific. The Commission suggested that APCTT activities also cover issues related to technological innovation in the region, networking and capacity-building of regional R and D institutions, mapping of women in economic development, particularly women entrepreneurs in medium and large-scale enterprises, and developing indicators on gender equality and justice in the economy.

176. The Commission appreciated the steps taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish the secretariats for both the regional cooperative policy mechanism for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the subregional network of the Centre to strengthen technical cooperation between Central Asian and Middle Eastern countries and other ESCAP member countries. It was informed that the secretariats at Tehran would be established shortly and that several meetings were to take place in the third quarter of 2002. Furthermore, the Commission requested APCTT to expand the network of model technology transfer agencies in the region.

177. The Commission noted with satisfaction the positive initiatives which the Centre had taken to market its services by providing fee-based technology transfer services and to secure donor assistance for its institutional and programme requirements. In particular, it noted the usefulness of the various mechanisms used by the Centre to disseminate information, such as its technical periodicals and publications and technology information transfer networks, particularly with technology transfer intermediaries worldwide as well as the business portal being used to assist technology-led SMEs in the Asian and Pacific region.

178. In endorsing the report and recommendations of the Governing Board of the Centre, the Commission urged member countries to provide the required institutional support for APCTT so that effective assistance could be provided to the countries. Greater cooperation was also urged in the assignment of experts by member countries in the various technology fields, including the transfer of technology.

179. The Commission requested donor countries to provide the needed programme support for APCTT activities. It expressed gratitude to the Governments of Germany, the Netherlands and Canada, as well as UNDP, for the substantial assistance provided to the Centre. It also expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its continued financial support and for the host facilities provided.

180. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Statute of the Centre, along with the host country, India, the Commission elected the following countries to the Governing Board of the Centre for the period 2002-2005: Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

181. The Commission noted the useful and beneficial work carried out by RNAEM in the past and emphasized that its activities should be further strengthened. It endorsed the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee at its twenty-second session and the Governing Body at its twenty-first session, held in February 2002, as contained in document E/ESCAP/1243.

182. The Commission supported the expansion of the activities of the Network and recommended that it be upgraded to a regional centre named the "Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM)". The Centre should undertake activities as suggested in the Statute, especially in (a) strengthening, disseminating and transferring knowledge and technology in areas such as preservation and processing technologies and the manufacture of farm machinery, (b) developing agricultural tools and equipment and (c) human resources development. Activities to promote new technologies such as biotechnology application in rural agriculture should be supported.

183. The Commission expressed gratitude for the decision of the Government of China to host the Centre at Beijing and its pledge to provide near to US$ 4 million in institutional support for the Centre for the first five years. The Commission expressed confidence that with the provision of the institutional costs for five years, the Centre would be able to mobilize substantial additional resources to meet programme costs and would be able to undertake activities for the benefit of the developing countries of the region.

184. The Commission recommended that every effort be made by the ESCAP secretariat as well as the Centre to expand the membership of the Centre and develop it as a centre of excellence. It urged the secretariat to initiate action to operationalize the Centre as soon as possible and develop synergies and

cooperation with similar institutions in other member countries and with FAO.

185. The Commission emphasized that every effort should be made to enlist the support and participation of the private sector in various activities of the Centre. It recommended that joint activities beneficial to both the private and public sectors in agricultural mechanization and post- harvesting technologies, as well as in activities aimed at increasing farm productivity, should be undertaken.

186. The Commission suggested that the Centre undertake activities aimed at developing tools and equipment and agricultural machinery for use by women farm workers. It also suggested that efforts be made to develop implements so that the disabled and other weaker sections of the society could participate in agricultural production activities.

187. The Commission adopted resolution 58/5 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery. It recommended that the term of membership of the present Governing Body be extended for one year and that the election of the new Governing Board, as stipulated by the Statute of the Centre, be held at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.

188. The Commission expressed gratitude to the donors and other countries, especially China, for their support to RNAEM over the years. It also expressed appreciation to the members of the Governing Body for their contributions in the past and urged that those contributions be continued and, if possible, increased in the coming years. It noted India's offer to provide appropriate support to the Centre upon receipt of the proposal for its next phase.

Environment and natural resources development

Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its third session

189. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its third session (E/ESCAP/1244). Except for one delegation, all delegations endorsed the report of the Committee, including its conclusions and recommendations, covering a wide range of issues which were perceived as pertinent to sustainable development, such as climate change, sustainable energy development, access to water supply and decentralized management of mineral resources development.

190. It commended the secretariat for its efforts to implement a wide range of activities that were practical and helpful in promoting sustainable development. It recommended that such efforts be continued through concrete programmes and activities, along with efforts to promote partnerships between international, regional, subregional, national and local stakeholders.

191. It appreciated the initiative taken by the secretariat in capacity-building in the strategic planning and management of natural resources, in particular, of the energy and water sectors, as well as environmental management. It expressed the hope that the project would help to facilitate the transfer of the relevant knowledge and practices to integrate environmental considerations into the socio-economic development process in an effective manner.

192. The Commission reiterated its support for the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, as a blueprint for achieving sustainable development and requested that it be implemented, particularly in the areas of environmental monitoring, biodiversity, coastal and marine environment, environmentally sound technology transfer and capacity-building. It acknowledged the need to supplement the efforts of developing countries and economies in transition to implement Agenda 21 with additional financial resources, ODA flows and environmentally sound technologies. It requested the secretariat to mobilize financial resources and assist in the transfer and application of such technologies.

193. The Commission strongly supported the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, which was considered a very effective mechanism for improving the urban environment. It encouraged countries to participate actively in that Initiative, in particular, through their local governments. It also noted with appreciation the continued support for that Initiative by the Government of Japan.

194. The Commission endorsed the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific and emphasized the need for the implementation of the seven initiatives contained therein. It recommended that the secretariat play an important role in analysing, implementing and monitoring the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Commission adopted resolution 58/3 on the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

195. Emphasizing the importance of subregional cooperation, the Commission supported the continuation of the secretariat's work, particularly with regard to environmental cooperation in North-East Asia. Such efforts should, inter alia, aim at environmental cooperation and capacity-building.

196. The Commission was informed that preparatory activities towards the establishment of an international centre for coexistence with the desert had been initiated which could be useful in tackling desertification in Central and South-West Asia.

197. The Commission recognized that climate change was a major threat, particularly to small island developing States, whose very survival was at stake. It urged the secretariat and other bilateral and multilateral organizations to assist such countries in combating the negative impact of climate change.

198. The Commission also recognized that the Clean Development Mechanism provided opportunities for capacity-building and technology transfer. Noting that the Mechanism would be beneficial in the transfer of advanced and renewable energy technologies, it requested the secretariat to facilitate the implementation of Clean Development Mechanism projects in the region.

199. The Commission was informed that a global conference on climate change would be held at Moscow in 2003. It encouraged countries in the region to participate actively in that conference. It noted with appreciation the support of the Government of Japan in organizing the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, to be held at Bangkok in July-August 2002, and in providing financial and technical assistance for capacity-building projects related to climate change.

200. The Commission requested the secretariat to undertake concerted efforts towards poverty reduction, without affecting the environment negatively, to assist member countries in achieving the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration and other relevant United Nations goals.

201. Noting that sustainable energy development was one of the most important and high-priority elements of sustainable development, the Commission recommended that action to promote the use of alternative sources of energy, advanced and clean energy technologies and cleaner production should be stepped up. It recognized that renewable energy and energy efficiency played a central role in sustainable energy development.

202. The Commission noted with interest the efforts undertaken by several countries in using clean energy sources, such as natural gas and renewable energy, and in improving energy efficiency. It noted with appreciation the offer by India to share its technical expertise in the conduct of energy audits, the renovation of thermal and hydro plants and the installation of solar heaters and biogas plants, as well as to provide consultancies on improving energy conservation.

203. The Commission appreciated the secretariat's initiative in promoting subregional energy cooperation in North-East Asia. It noted the successful outcome of the subregional expert group meeting held at Khabarovsk, Russian Federation, in October 2001, and requested the secretariat to pursue the implementation of the recommendations contained in the communiqué issued by the meeting to facilitate further consultations and cooperation.

204. The Commission emphasized that the shortage of water resources had become a critical issue throughout the region and urged that greater attention be given to improving access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, increasing public awareness of water conservation, improving water-use efficiency and water quality and reducing surface and groundwater contamination. It recognized the need to promote water-demand management, integrated water resources management, private sector participation and the management of water-related natural disasters. The secretariat was requested to continue its assistance to promote capacity-building, regional cooperation and the exchange of best practices in those areas.

205. The Commission emphasized the importance of the formulation of appropriate water policies and strategies as well as strategic planning for the sustainable development of natural resources and disaster management. The secretariat was requested to hold workshops on groundwater quality, including groundwater potential in coastal tracts, and irrigation methods to improve water-use efficiency.

206. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress achieved, at both the national and regional levels, since the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in 1999, in promoting space technology applications in support of environmental monitoring, natural resources development, poverty alleviation and natural disaster management. It recommended that ESCAP continue follow-up activities in that area.

207. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the secretariat's role in supporting the regional cooperative network under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development. It expressed appreciation of the continued financial and in-kind support extended by member countries for the implementation of the Programme. It appreciated the offer by India to share its expertise and experience in the fields of space-based services in remote sensing satellite communication, TCDC activities in rice monitoring and assessment, space technology education and disaster management.

208. The Commission acknowledged that space technology applications could contribute greatly to natural disaster management and noted with appreciation the willingness of countries to enhance regional and international cooperation by providing space technology support to other countries during major disasters. It recommended that the secretariat promote a regional cooperative mechanism to enhance the capacity of countries in applying space technology for natural disaster management.

Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 56/4 on the promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island States

209. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1245, reporting on progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 56/4 of

7 June 2000 on the promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island States.

210. The Commission noted the initiatives and activities undertaken and planned by the secretariat, as well as the progress achieved. It also noted the successful outcome of the Workshop on Sustainable Energy Policies and Strategies for Pacific Island Developing States, held at Suva in February 2002, in particular, in addressing the concerns raised and the concrete subregional and regional plans of action proposed for capacity-building and training.

211. The Commission endorsed the progress made in the implementation of the resolution as reported by the secretariat.

Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas

212. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1246, E/ESCAP/1247, E/ESCAP/1248 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/1263, relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas. It commended the secretariat for the quality and comprehensiveness of the documents.

Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its fourth session

213. The Commission fully endorsed the report of the Committee as contained in document E/ESCAP/1246.

214. The Commission emphasized that the reduction of poverty required sustained economic growth but with equitable distribution. Recognizing the multiple dimensions of poverty, it emphasized the need for an integrated holistic approach involving all stakeholders in achieving the overarching goal of poverty alleviation. Productive employment was essential for reducing poverty at the family level. Poverty reduction also required social integration, the participation of communities, individuals and civil society organizations in development planning and decision-making and the empowerment of such disadvantaged groups as women, youth, people with disabilities, older persons and socio-economically backward classes.

215. The Commission noted the progress achieved in the implementation of the commitments in the three core goals of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion, which had been prioritized at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 and at the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Summit, held in 2000. The Commission emphasized the need to strengthen social protection and social safety nets, particularly those aimed at protecting the poor and vulnerable groups; ensure access to basic social services; and link poverty alleviation strategies with those to promote social integration.

216. The Commission stressed the need for pro-poor policies in the creation of employment, the reduction of migration, capacity-building, infrastructure development and access to services, empowerment of the poor, access to markets, the development of financial institutions that would provide microfinance for the poor and the formation of micro and small enterprises.

217. The Commission noted that local governments played a vital role in social and economic development and environmental protection, and urged Governments to pay more attention to the development of small and medium-sized towns and build the capacity for poverty alleviation of local governments in those towns in order to reduce the pressure on large cities. It appreciated the unique role of ESCAP in establishing the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements and the Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific, whose mission was to build the capacity of local governments. The Commission stressed the importance of a more balanced development approach and the need to decentralize development to cities and towns other than capital and primate cities.

218. The Commission noted with interest the experiences of some countries in addressing different aspects of poverty and poverty reduction, where studies were being undertaken and projects implemented to elucidate the exact nature and magnitude of poverty. It noted the importance of the sharing of experiences as a significant means to develop the capacity of Governments to reduce poverty and appreciated the assistance provided by the secretariat to members and associate members in the broad areas of poverty reduction and social development. It recommended that ESCAP facilitate the sharing of experiences in poverty reduction in urban and rural areas between countries in the region through the identification, documentation, dissemination and replication of best practices, whenever possible, through pilot projects. The Commission noted with appreciation the completion of phase I of the project on the Human Dignity Initiative and urged the secretariat to expand implementation of the next phase of the project to include South Asia.

219. The Commission acknowledged that ICT offered vast opportunities for economic growth and social development in the Asian and Pacific region and recognized the important role that the use of ICT could play in rural poverty reduction in developing countries. It noted the important potential of the use of ICT as an effective tool for creating job opportunities, enhancing the business prospects of the rural poor, providing education and training and improving access to health information, microcredit and other government services. Noting the need to develop demand-driven pro-poor ICT services and infrastructure that would promote economic opportunities for the poor, the Commission requested the secretariat to undertake ICT-related activities to support the reduction of rural poverty in the developing countries by organizing training and

workshops on the implementation of pro-poor ICT services, as well as providing practical advisory services on ICT. It urged that biotechnology be harnessed to increase agricultural productivity and income, particularly of the poor. It also called for expansion of the provision of microcredit.

220. The Commission noted with interest the efforts of various Governments in promoting ICT for rural development and poverty reduction, to narrow the rural-urban gap. It stressed the potential important application of ICT to ensure access by the poor to health care, good education, microfinance infrastructure, services and capital. It urged the secretariat to establish an ICT network by providing technical assistance to members and associate members in the development of guidelines and manuals for the implementation of a demand-driven pro-poor project.

221. While emphasizing the critical role of ICT in rural poverty alleviation, the Commission urged the secretariat to play a leading role in increasing the penetration of ICT to the poor in the following areas: (a) sharing best practices in the use of ICT for land and water management, (b) technology upgrading of rural enterprises through ICT and (c) using ICT as a tool for training and capacity-building for local planning. The representative of India offered to share his country's expertise and experience with other members and associate members through ESCAP-supported programmes in different aspects of the use of ICT for rural poverty alleviation.

222. The Commission noted the need for equitable and fair access to world markets, particularly for least developed countries and those countries which were not members of WTO, given the vital role of trade in poverty alleviation. It emphasized the need for assistance to poor and vulnerable groups to improve the marketing of their products, which had contributed to poverty reduction.

223. Several delegations acknowledged the link between fertility and poverty, noting that the large number of children in families contributed to household poverty. They noted that family planning programmes had led to a decline in fertility. They also acknowledged the importance of reproductive health programmes for women's health and for improving the welfare of populations, especially the poorer and more vulnerable segments.

224. The Commission recognized the serious economic and social challenges of population ageing in the region and the need to ensure adequate provision of support to older persons. It requested that adequate regional and national action be taken to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held at Madrid in April 2002. It welcomed the announcement by the Government of China that it would host the regional meeting on follow-up to the Assembly, to be held at Shanghai in September 2002.

225. The Commission emphasized the need to mainstream gender into all spheres of policy development as an essential component of poverty alleviation. By taking women's concerns into account at all policy levels, greater results could be obtained, including alleviating the feminization of poverty. Furthermore, great importance was attached to the empowerment of women as a strategy for poverty reduction, including female participation in the labour force, women as entrepreneurs and women's self-help groups at the community level. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's work for the advancement of women in the region, in particular, in the areas of poverty reduction among women, ICT and combating trafficking in women and children. It extended its support for further action by ESCAP to promote gender equality.

226. The importance of women's leadership and participation in local government was highlighted. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's efforts to promote the advancement of women in local government.

227. The Commission recognized that women with disabilities suffered a double burden of discrimination: not only were they discriminated against on account of their sex but their suffering was further aggravated as a result of being disabled.

228. The Commission highlighted the nexus between health and women in development, as well as the necessity to allocate appropriate budget funds to that aspect of poverty alleviation.

229. The Commission reiterated the importance of human resources development as a strategy for reducing poverty. It noted that education and skills training, including through the use of ICT, were necessary to enable rural youth to gain access to productive economic opportunities. It highlighted the need to respect the diversity within the ESCAP region, especially when considering the appropriateness of solutions regarding issues faced by young people.

230. The Commission recognized the increasing spread of HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific region and its potentially devastating socio-economic impact. It recognized the need for early intervention and effective measures to address the epidemic. It urged the secretariat to focus particular attention on HIV prevention, with emphasis on comprehensive multisectoral responses. Emphasis was also placed on the need for strategies related to educational and cultural measures, as well as information and communication through the mass media and the use of ICT. Importance was also given to the need for care and support for people with HIV/AIDS.

231. The Commission endorsed with warm appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to host the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, to be held at Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, Japan,

from 25 to 28 October 2002. It encouraged members and associate members in the region to participate in the Meeting and formulate and adopt a millennium framework for action following the Decade. The Commission recognized that 2002 was the concluding year of the Decade and noted the strong need expressed in various regional forums for a regional framework for action for another 10 years to further promote the equalization of opportunities of people with disabilities. It welcomed the initiatives of the Governments of Japan and Thailand to establish the Asian and Pacific Development Centre on Disability, in Thailand, to facilitate the empowerment of people with disabilities and promote a barrier-free society for all. The Commission requested that the secretariat support Pacific island countries in implementing the recommendations on the participation of disabled persons adopted at the seventh session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, held at Bangkok on 14 and 15 May 2002. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its technical assistance through advisory services and the organization of training workshops and conferences that provided regional forums for the sharing of good practices among developing countries concerning the equalization of opportunities of people with disabilities. The Commission adopted resolution 58/4 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century.

232. The Commission also adopted resolution 58/2 on poverty reduction for sustainable development.

Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas

233. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1247 and expressed satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas.

Report of the Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth

234. The Commission reviewed document E/ESCAP/1263. Except for two delegations, all delegations endorsed the report and the recommendations contained therein.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

235. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1248 and Corr.1 and expressed satisfaction with the programme activities that had been implemented by the Centre in 2001.

236. The Commission recognized the important role of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber crops for food security, rural economy and alleviation of the poverty prevailing in the region. It recommended that the Centre continue and strengthen its collaborative programme for research and development as well as human resources development and information services with the members and associate members of ESCAP, covering a broad range of issues for achieving the sustainable development of diverse agriculture and alleviating poverty in the region.

237. Several members stated their commitment to continue their financial support to the Centre; however, financial instability was still a major constraint for the Centre. The Commission expressed particular concern in that regard and urged members and associate members to consider a substantial increase in their funding so as to ensure the effective implementation of the Centre's programme activities. It requested the ESCAP secretariat to assist the Centre in mobilizing financial resources for its activities.

238. The Commission expressed appreciation of the contributions in cash or in kind, or both, received from the Governments of Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

239. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1249, E/ESCAP/1250 and E/ESCAP/1251. It commended the secretariat on the quality and comprehensiveness of the documents.

240. The Commission recognized that the participation of member countries in an increasingly competitive global market depended upon the efficiency and reliability of their transport infrastructure and services. It also recognized that transport was indispensable for national development and the reduction of poverty. It expressed the view that an efficient integrated transport network would promote regional cooperation and was a prerequisite for the smooth movement of goods and people within the ESCAP region and between it and other regions.

241. The Commission emphasized the crucial role of ESCAP in continuing to assist members and associate members in developing efficient transport systems at the national, regional, intraregional and interregional levels. It stressed the special and significant problems confronted by the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as economies in transition, because of high transport costs. It welcomed the special emphasis placed upon addressing the transport concerns of those countries in phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

242. The Commission called upon the secretariat to continue to implement projects and activities to meet the priority needs and concerns of the members and expressed appreciation of the ongoing efforts of the secretariat to enhance cooperation with other United Nations bodies as well as regional and international organizations active in the development of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development in the region.

243. The Commission noted with satisfaction the significant achievements made through the implementation of phase I of the Regional Action Programme (1997-2001) of the New Delhi Action Plan, with the active participation of members.

244. The Commission noted the importance of members developing appropriate implementation strategies at the national level that would support the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan.

245. The Commission recognized the importance of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held at Seoul in November 2001, and emphasized the significance of its recommendations. It also extended its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the Conference and for the kind courtesies extended to the delegations.

246. The Commission endorsed the report of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, including the recommendations and conclusions as contained in document E/ESCAP/1249. It stressed the importance of the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific adopted by the Conference, including phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was annexed to the Declaration. It also endorsed the plan of action for phase V (2002-2003) of the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project.

247. With respect to its resolution 52/9 of 24 April 1996 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges, the Commission noted the substantial progress made in implementing the ALTID project. It stressed that emphasis should be placed on the development of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway as part of an integrated intermodal transport system in line with the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure. It noted the importance of bilateral discussions to facilitate the development of subregional and regional agreements.

248. The Commission noted with appreciation the completion of the study on the road network connecting China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula and endorsed the recommendation of the policy-level expert group meeting held at Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2001 to extend the Asian Highway network to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The Commission also appreciated the review of Asian Highway routes and design standards which had been undertaken by the secretariat and discussed by the Expert Group Meeting on Development of the Asian Highway Network, held at Bangkok in May 2002. It stressed the need to formalize the Asian Highway and endorsed the establishment of a working group to develop an intergovernmental agreement for the Asian Highway network.

249. The Commission stressed the importance of developing road transport corridors within Asia and linking Asia with Europe and Western Asia. It noted the construction and plans for the improvement of international transport links in the Asian Highway network, including (a) part of Asian Highway route A-1 Bangkok-Phnom Penh-Ho Chi Minh City connecting Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam, (b) part of Asian Highway route A-1 Moreh-Tamu-Bagan-Mae Sot connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand, (c) part of Asian Highway route A-16 East-West Corridor connecting Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, (d) part of Asian Highway route A-8 North-South Corridor linking the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and (e) part of Asian Highway route A-2 Kerman-Zahedan in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

250. The Commission noted the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the number of Asian Highway route A-70 be changed to a single-digit number to reflect its importance. It was pointed out that substantial sections were common with routes A-2, A-5 and A-8 and that the matter should be considered further, as proposed during the Expert Group Meeting held in May 2002.

251. The Commission noted with interest that China was making substantial progress towards approval of the Asian Highway routes in that country.

252. The Commission welcomed the approval of the project on capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages funded by the United Nations Development Account, to be implemented jointly by all five regional commissions. In that respect, the Commission requested that it be kept informed of the results of joint sessions of the regional commissions with respect to transport. It noted the need to identify the transport links between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions, as well as the need to complete the elaboration of and implement the joint ESCAP/ECE programme on land transport bridges. It noted with appreciation the offer of the Russian Federation to assist the secretariat in undertaking research within the framework of the above-mentioned programme in the transport sector, particularly related to forecasting and the development of a database on cargo routes and passenger services.

253. The Commission reiterated the importance of transport facilitation measures through bilateral and subregional agreements, while emphasizing the need for consistency with international conventions. It noted the

progress made by countries in acceding to the conventions listed in its resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures.

254. The Commission considered that the secretariat had a crucial role to play in helping to address the special needs of its landlocked developing members. It requested the secretariat to reflect the concerns of those countries when developing the programme of work and to undertake projects focused on the facilitation and improvement of international and transit transport, including the potential role of landlocked countries in providing transport links between neighbouring countries.

255. The Commission appreciated the collaboration of ESCAP with the UNDP Tumen Secretariat in implementing a project on priority road network development in North-East Asia.

256. The Commission noted the offer by the Government of India to support human resources development activities such as the training of highway engineers by its National Institute for the Training of Highway Engineers.

257. The Commission noted the substantial progress made towards the development of rail container transport in the Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway and requested that the secretariat support the active participation of all countries located along the corridor in the project. It noted that, following the historic inter-Korean summit in June 2000, the Republic of Korea had now completed its commitment with respect to the reconnection of railway and road linkages between its infrastructure and that of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It noted with appreciation that China had agreed to sign the memorandum of understanding on the planning and implementation of demonstration runs of container block trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor, and that the format of signature was still under consideration. It expressed appreciation to the Russian Federation for offering to host the first meeting of the steering committee for the planning and implementation of demonstration runs at Vladivostok in June 2002. The Commission noted that China was considering hosting the second meeting.

258. With regard to the Trans-Asian Railway in the ASEAN subregion, the Commission noted the importance given by the countries concerned to the development of the Singapore-Kunming rail link project.

259. The Commission also noted the interest of many countries in the International Transport Corridor "North-South" and the action being taken by India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation to encourage other countries along the corridor to sign a corridor agreement, inter alia, in view of its capacity to link the landlocked Central Asian States with the port of Bandar Abbas.

260. The Commission further noted the need for an early consensus on the routes identified during the Expert Group Meeting on the Southern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, held at Dhaka in May 1999, and the request by India for assistance in developing the Southern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, especially through further detailed studies on operational issues such as rolling-stock incompatibility, trans-shipment facilities and road bridging, in cooperation with UIC.

261. To enhance cooperation among the railway organizations in the region, the Commission recommended the organization of meetings of railway chief executives.

262. The Commission noted the ongoing construction of the Arak-Kermanshah-Khosrawi railway linking the ESCAP and ESCWA regions and requested that the link be reflected on the Trans-Asian Railway map. It also noted the introduction of container and passenger services from Kazakhstan (Almaty) to Turkey (Istanbul) through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the context of the transport development plan of ECO.

263. The Commission stressed the importance of developing freight forwarding, multimodal transport and logistics through the integration of all modes of transport with shipping and ports as important intermodal linkages and logistics centres. It noted the need to facilitate the smooth movement of goods by simplifying procedures, transit requirements, cross-border tariffs and customs regulations. It also noted with appreciation the secretariat's work in developing and refining the draft ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport.

264. Noting the recent rapid growth of container trade in some ports of the region, the Commission requested that the secretariat review and update the container forecast study utilizing the Maritime Policy Planning Model.

265. The Commission noted the importance of the secretariat's work with respect to maritime transport and port development in North-East Asia. It further noted the potential benefits that could be derived through the Northern Sea Route that relied on ice-breaking vessels and hydro-technologies. The Russian Federation expressed interest in attracting foreign investment to modernize the ports of North-East Asia.

266. The Commission noted that the existing transport capacity in some countries was not fully utilized and requested that the secretariat conduct studies to improve transport productivity. In particular, it noted the underutilized waterway capacity between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions.

267. The Commission noted the requests by India and the Islamic Republic of Iran that seminars on GATS negotiations on maritime transport services be organized to sensitize stakeholders.

268. The Commission noted with appreciation the continued support extended to the secretariat by the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea with regard to projects related to road, railway and maritime transport, and tourism.

269. The Commission stressed the importance of subregional and interregional cooperation in the implementation of phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006). In that respect, it noted examples of cooperation between ESCAP and ASEAN, Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC), ECO, the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Intergovernmental Commission Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia, the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, the Tumen River Area Development Programme and the UNDP Silk Road Area Development Project as well as ECA, ECE, ECLAC and ESCWA.

270. The Commission stressed the importance of private sector participation in transport infrastructure development. It requested the secretariat to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices in public-private partnerships, develop policy guidelines for promoting private sector participation in infrastructure development, organize seminars and workshops on developing appropriate regulatory frameworks for public-private partnerships in the area of transport involving all stakeholders, and disseminate models of finance for infrastructure development.

271. The Commission recalled the offer by the Government of India to provide host facilities for the Asia-Pacific Telecommunications Standards Institute and noted that offer and its continued interest. It encouraged the Government of India to obtain inputs from ITU and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity so that the issue could be decided as early as possible for the benefit of all members.

272. The Commission noted the increasing traffic congestion, capacity constraints and other related problems in urban areas. It recognized the urgent need for capacity-building of both national and local governments in urban transport and infrastructure development and management. It noted the activities of the Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific and the invitation for local government training and research institutes to join the Network. It also noted the request by Indonesia for assistance in the development of urban transport.

273. The delegation of Maldives expressed appreciation to the secretariat for conducting studies on the liberalization of Internet services, which had formed the basis for the decision to license a second service provider.

274. The Commission noted the development strategies of ECO, including the identification of missing road and rail links, the removal of logistic, administrative and legal impediments and the strengthening of institutional capacity.

275. Stressing the important contribution of tourism to the socio-economic development of the region, the Commission strongly supported the secretariat's activities to promote the sustainable development of tourism. It requested that the secretariat strengthen activities to promote the sharing of experiences related to sustainable tourism development and enhance cooperation in human resources development through the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism. It also requested that the secretariat extend support to the tourism programmes of such economic groupings as BIMST-EC and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, which had identified tourism as a priority area of cooperation. The Commission suggested that the initiatives of the secretariat include activities related to (a) the promotion of Buddhist tourism circuits, (b) the promotion of the diverse tourism opportunities in South and South-East Asia and the ECO subregion and (c) the preparation of tourism satellite accounts.

276. The Commission recommended that the secretariat work more closely with the World Bank and ADB and other international funding institutions so as to attract more funding for infrastructure projects in the region.

277. The Commission expressed deep appreciation to all donor countries and funding agencies within the United Nations system, and other organizations, for their generous and invaluable contributions to the activities in the field of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development, namely, the Governments of Australia, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, as well as UNDP, UNAIDS, the Islamic Development Bank, ADB, the Japan Transport Cooperation Association and the Nippon Foundation.

Statistics

278. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1252, which it considered to be a comprehensive description of emerging issues and developments in statistics.

279. The Commission took note of the need for Governments to allocate sufficient resources to national statistical offices in order to produce quality statistics to support social and economic programmes and policies effectively. It noted that statistics were a key factor in assessing and measuring developments in the economy and that the demand for relevant statistics had increased significantly following the recent economic crisis in the region.

280. The Commission recognized the importance of the secretariat's activities in supplementing national efforts to build sustainable national statistical capacity through advisory services and workshops. It noted with satisfaction the close cooperation in those activities with other regional and international organizations. In

particular, it welcomed the growing cooperation between ESCAP and ECO.

281. The Commission noted that statistics remained in the core programme of work under the proposed revitalized ESCAP structure. Concern was expressed, however, that the location of the statistics subprogramme and subcommittee under the rubric of poverty reduction might give the impression that the role of statistics in the Commission's work was being viewed in a narrower perspective than previously. It was felt that since statistics were essentially cross-sectoral in nature and were important to the decision-making process in a wide range of areas, capacity-building related to the two other themes, managing globalization and emerging social issues, was also necessary and should continue. Statistics development was also required in emerging areas such as international migrant workers and related issues, environment and sustainable development, and ICT.

282. The Commission placed emphasis on preparing internationally comparable data in various social and economic fields and drew attention to the fact that poverty (in absolute and relative terms) had national dimensions encompassing both quantitative and qualitative aspects. It pointed out that poverty also had a variety of definitions in different societies based on their special conditions and situations. The Commission urged the secretariat to provide the necessary support in devising appropriate statistical indices for poverty. It was also suggested that in keeping with the millennium development goals, a statistical system for monitoring poverty should be designed and implemented by the secretariat.

283. The Commission welcomed the efforts of international organizations to assist some countries of the region in updating the national poverty line and in other matters related to poverty measurement and analysis. It noted with appreciation the joint initiative of the Government of Thailand, the World Bank Institute and ESCAP to organize a workshop for managers on the monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction programmes, to be held at Bangkok in the second half of 2002.

284. The Commission noted that even though many countries in the region had been involved in the collection and compilation of statistical indicators pertaining to diverse economic and social sectors, they still faced problems in providing data regularly for the human development reports published by UNDP. The problems related to data which were only collected at infrequent intervals and which might not be available for subnational or lower geographical areas. It considered that ESCAP and SIAP could help to strengthen national capabilities in data collection and compilation and statistical analysis in the preparation of national human development reports.

285. The Commission noted with appreciation the contribution of India as the convener of the Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (Delhi Group). It welcomed the Group's project to establish a database on statistics concerning the informal sector and encouraged donor agencies to provide financial support to the project. The Commission noted that the measurement of the informal sector economy needed to be standardized and harmonized to make cross-country comparison meaningful.

286. The Commission recognized the need to migrate to the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in order to generate key economic indicators of development that were relevant and comparable. It noted the efforts made by countries to implement the 1993 SNA by phases, including strengthening the underlying statistics through various data collection initiatives. It also expressed appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat and to SIAP for providing training courses, workshops and advisory services to strengthen the capacity of countries to compile national accounts, and acknowledged the contributions made through bilateral assistance in improving the quality of national and subnational accounts. It welcomed the plans of ESCAP and ECO to organize jointly a workshop on the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

287. The Commission noted that new initiatives in data collection would be needed to measure activities such as the household production of goods for own use, and cited the efforts of some countries in employing time-use surveys for that purpose. It also recognized that the emerging importance of ICT in the economy warranted its classification as a separate sector of economic activity in the national accounts.

288. The Commission endorsed the implementation of the secretariat's proposed action plan on the implementation of the 1993 SNA but indicated that the plan needed to be further articulated and to include the responsibilities of the countries. It recommended that ESCAP and SIAP should provide more training and technical advisory services on the 1993 SNA and develop handbooks and manuals on important topics in national accounts. The Commission also requested ESCAP to provide advice and expertise in the area of international standard classifications.

289. The Commission noted the developments in the International Comparison Programme (ICP), including the research project implemented by ESCAP on integration of work on consumer price indices and ICP and on the use of purchasing power parities in the study of poverty. The research findings would help to lay the foundation for successful implementation of ICP in the region, as well as build statistical capacity in the areas of prices, national accounts and poverty measurement. The Commission encouraged Governments to participate actively in the Programme and urged donor countries and agencies to provide support to ICP. The view was expressed that ICP results were indicative in nature and should not be used for policy-oriented decisions.

290. Recalling discussions at its previous session, the Commission noted that the measurement of the information society and the knowledge-based economy had gained importance in the region. Some statistical offices had added ICT-related questions to their household and establishment surveys in order to start creating indicators measuring ICT infrastructure and use. Recognizing that frameworks for quantifying the impact of ICT on the economy and society were inadequate or lacking in many developing countries, the Commission urged the secretariat to expedite its efforts in providing training and advice on developing related statistical capacity.

291. The Commission noted with gratitude that since the fifty-seventh session, the secretariat had received generous extrabudgetary assistance which had contributed significantly to the implementation of operational activities under the statistics subprogramme. Bilateral donors included the Governments of the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, while ADB, the World Bank, OECD, UNFPA and UNDP were among the agencies that had assisted and collaborated with the secretariat on several activities.

Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

292. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1253 containing the report on SIAP.

293. The Commission expressed its deep appreciation to SIAP for imparting training in official statistics to the members and associate members of ESCAP. In particular, the Commission recognized that statistical training at SIAP under its Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA) courses provided valuable training opportunities for the national statistical offices of the region in core official statistics which included statistical methods and survey sampling, demography and social statistics, and national accounts. It also acknowledged the importance of training provided through TMA-based courses in data analysis and interpretation and in statistical computing. The Commission agreed that the statistical training activities of SIAP had contributed significantly to developing the capabilities of the national statistical offices of the region and that SIAP training, which covered a wide range of statistical subjects, had benefited a large number of participants. The Commission noted that strong demand therefore persisted for the training activities of SIAP, as they had been of great use to member countries in providing forums for statisticians to exchange views and experience. Several members and associate members requested that training opportunities at SIAP for their statisticians be expanded.

294. The Commission supported the new areas of statistical training that SIAP had developed, and several countries indicated their desire to collaborate with SIAP, through their national statistical centres, in jointly conducting some of the regional and subregional courses under its outreach programme. It acknowledged that such collaboration would not only take advantage of the training expertise and facilities available in the region in implementing the work programme of SIAP, but also help countries in the region to acquire valuable experience in conducting international training and provide the participants with experience in studying the statistical systems of other countries in the region.

295. The Commission gave its strong support to the training activities of SIAP and recommended that the outreach programme be intensified for the benefit of the members and associate members. It suggested that SIAP should actively expand to new areas, such as e-learning in official statistics, the impact of ICT on conventional statistics and measuring the knowledge-based economy. The Commission recognized the increasing emergence of the ICT sector, its contribution to national income and the need for SIAP to provide training in that regard since special statistical methods and indices might be necessary. Other areas in statistics identified by the Commission where SIAP should provide training included advanced techniques on data imputation for processing establishment census/survey data and computer assisted data entry, editing, automatic correction, tabulation and analysis for survey data processing. The Commission also noted a request for SIAP to organize a subregional course on sampling techniques and applications for member countries of ECO.

296. The Commission appreciated the usefulness to the national statistical offices of training provided by SIAP under the SIAP/UNDP project on establishing and strengthening national capabilities in data collection, compilation and statistical analysis for preparing national human development reports. It highlighted the importance of evolving common standards for the various statistical indicators on the diverse economic and social aspects of development.

297. The Commission suggested that SIAP conduct training courses and seminars on data collection, compilation and statistical analysis for preparing national human development reports for the South and South-West Asia subregion. It suggested that such activities could assist in enhancing recognition of the wider aspects of human development and facilitate exchange of experiences in collecting and compiling the statistics concerned. The Commission agreed that SIAP could seek fresh programme support from UNDP to continue its training activities on the broader issue of social indicators.

298. The Commission felt that it was necessary to ensure the sound operation of the Institute on a stable financial basis to enable SIAP to respond adequately and accurately to the increasing and diversifying training needs in the region. It requested members and associate members which had not yet contributed to SIAP to commence their institutional support and those which were contributing to increase the amount of their cash contributions. It also suggested that members and associate members and international organizations

should make contributions in kind, including sending experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

299. The Commission encouraged the concerned agencies in the member and associate member countries to have sufficient consultations among themselves, in order to reflect adequately, in the needs survey conducted by JICA, the strong demand by their national statistical offices for training at the TMA-based SIAP courses. It noted that otherwise countries might lose opportunities to send their statisticians to TMA-based courses on JICA fellowships.

300. The Commission endorsed the mission statement of SIAP and the existing rules of procedure of the Governing Board, as adopted at its seventh session.

301. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for its contributions to SIAP in both cash and kind despite its dire financial situation. It noted with deep appreciation the intention of the Government of Japan to make a cash contribution of US$ 1,752,700 and the equivalent of about US$ 1,680,700 in kind for the one-year period from April 2002 through March 2003. The Commission also thanked the Government of Japan for its intention to provide SIAP, through JICA, with 63 fellowships for its annual TMA-based statistical training courses and 8 fellowships for an area-focused course for the central Asian countries which were in the process of transition to market economies. In addition, the Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of India for contributing US$ 15,000 as institutional support to SIAP.

302. The Commission expressed gratitude for the cash contributions made by members and associate members to the institutional budget of SIAP. It also thanked UNDP for its programme support to SIAP and especially for its funding of the SIAP/UNDP project on statistics for national human development reports.

303. The Commission acknowledged with deep appreciation the contributions of other international organizations, namely, FAO and UNEP, and their collaboration with SIAP in the implementation of its training activities.

304. The Commission expressed thanks to the Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Government of Japan; the Department of Statistics of Singapore; the United States Bureau of the Census; and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for providing resource support for specific subjects at SIAP training courses and workshops through its experts.

305. The Commission appreciated the collaboration with SIAP in hosting and providing support for regional/subregional courses by the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics, the Korea National Statistical Office, the Philippines National Statistics Office, the Philippines Statistical Research and Training Center and the Department of Statistics of Samoa. It also thanked the national statistical offices of Bhutan, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka for their cooperation with SIAP in the organization of country courses.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

306. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/1254). It expressed appreciation to the secretariat for a comprehensive report and endorsed the recommendations contained in it with respect to the two substantive agenda items: persons with disabilities and sustainable tourism development issues in Pacific island countries.

307. The Commission recognized that topics on persons with disabilities and sustainable tourism development were extremely important and timely for Pacific island countries. It noted that persons with disabilities were among the poorest and most marginalized members of society. While noting that some progress had been made towards the achievement of the goals of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, it expressed concern that Pacific island countries lagged in several areas in advancing the concerns of persons with disabilities. It supported the draft resolution on extending the Decade as well as the establishment of the proposed Asian and Pacific Development Centre on Disability at Bangkok and requested that there be a visible and relevant Pacific focus in both the post-Decade framework and the proposed Centre and its activities.

308. The Commission stressed the importance of tourism in the process of socio-economic development. It noted that tourism was the major source of foreign exchange in a number of countries and recognized that it could contribute to poverty alleviation. It also noted the high priority being given by many countries to further development of the tourism sector. It stressed that tourism should be environmentally and culturally positive and socially responsible. It recognized the importance of spreading the economic and social benefits of tourism to wide segments of society.

309. The Commission requested the secretariat to intensify its activities to assist countries in pursuing sustainable tourism development. It recommended that the secretariat promote the sharing of experience and best practices related to various aspects of sustainable tourism development and barrier-free tourism for people with disabilities. It took note of the request of Mongolia for ESCAP assistance in the conduct of a national seminar on sustainable tourism development. The secretariat was requested to strengthen its efforts related to human resources development through the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism. The Commission recommended that the secretariat develop training material on HIV/AIDS awareness for regional distribution and delivery in tourism education and training institutes.

310. The Commission expressed appreciation of the various activities implemented by the ESCAP secretariat and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre for the benefit of Pacific island countries and requested that such activities be continued in the future. It recognized that the Centre had been instrumental in assisting Pacific island countries in their development efforts and urged the secretariat to strengthen it by providing adequate resources.

311. The Commission acknowledged the usefulness of the technical assistance provided for Pacific island countries by the secretariat, with the cooperation of the Governments of some members under their national TCDC programmes. It expressed appreciation to those Governments for their assistance and urged other developed and developing countries to provide similar assistance, especially for capacity-building and human resources development.

312. The Commission acknowledged that the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries were to be retained under the proposed new conference structure of the Commission. It urged the secretariat to explore ways of making the Special Bodies and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre more responsive to the needs of least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries.

313. The Commission suggested that the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS in the Pacific island countries be considered for inclusion as one of the agenda items for the eighth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. It noted that, as in the island developing countries, transport costs were high in landlocked developing countries. It recognized that ICT offered a unique and useful opportunity for island and landlocked countries to free themselves from the tyranny of geography. It suggested that special technical assistance and capacity-building programmes could be designed to enable such countries to take advantage of ICT-driven social services and explore the potential to diversify their economies so that goods and services could be offered on the global market as efficiently as those from any other country, in order to reduce their economic vulnerability.

314. The Commission expressed appreciation to donor countries and international organizations for their support of activities implemented by ESCAP for the benefit of least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries.

Resource mobilization: technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

315. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1255 and information paper ESCAP(LVIII)/INF.2.

316. It noted with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat in implementing about 90 promotional TCDC/ECDC-related activities within the framework of the seven subprogrammes. It also noted that despite budgetary constraints, the secretariat had been able to facilitate the participation of 129 government officials in 52 TCDC operational activities as well as implement seven training courses on subjects of priority concern to the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within the framework of its memorandums of understanding with Malaysia, Singapore and WTO, in which 74 officials had participated.

317. The Commission expressed appreciation to its members and associate members for the financial and technical assistance they had extended to other countries in the region. It agreed that the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, should continue to receive priority as beneficiaries of TCDC/ECDC. Many of those countries, however, had not been able to take full advantage of the TCDC opportunities owing to the lack of information on the assistance provided under the various TCDC programmes of the more advanced developing countries. Noting that TCDC/ECDC should be demand-driven, the Commission requested the secretariat to conduct needs assessment and evaluation, as well as in-country consultations, to ascertain the priority needs of the members and associate members.

318. It was noted that inadequate provision of human and financial resources in general and weak TCDC national focal points in particular had resulted in a lack of awareness of TCDC opportunities and constituted an impediment to the promotion and enhancement of TCDC activities. The Commission therefore urged the beneficiary countries to become more proactive and take complementary measures, including the allocation of national budgets for the purpose of TCDC, to enable them to tap its full potential.

319. The Commission was pleased to note that, within the framework of the memorandums of understanding signed between ESCAP and the Governments of Malaysia and Singapore, as well as WTO, recipient countries had benefited from a variety of training opportunities provided by the more advanced developing countries under their third-country training programmes. To further expand the training opportunities for priority countries, the secretariat had signed two additional memorandums of understanding with the Governments of Thailand and Pakistan in 2001 and 2002 respectively.

320. The Commission noted with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat to organize annual sensitization workshops for TCDC national focal points, the most recent of which had been held at Fuzhou, China, in April 2002. It held the view that, in conducting TCDC

training activities, emphasis should be placed on human resources development, improvement of specialized skills, poverty reduction and capacity-building in order to ensure fruitful results leading to an enhancement of the role of ESCAP, in keeping with the current restructuring exercise.

321. The Government of China reported on its successful TCDC programmes over the previous two decades. China's contribution to the programmes had been on the increase, especially during the previous few years. It had hosted more than 100 technical assistance projects. With the relocation of the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery project in China in the near future, China would make considerable contributions to the project, both in cash and in kind, over the next five years, which would reflect its firm commitment to the promotion of technical cooperation activities.

322. TCDC activities had been organized regularly by the Government of Indonesia since 1981. It had organized five training programmes in 2001, including two TCDC programmes jointly with ESCAP. It had also conducted 11 training programmes in collaboration with the Government of Japan, through JICA, in 2001, with a total of 218 participants from 37 developing countries from the Asian and Pacific region and from Africa. The Government had, in turn, benefited from the participation of its officials in training programmes organized by other countries, including programmes supported by ESCAP.

323. The Government of Malaysia continued to support the promotion and strengthening of TCDC, especially in the course of implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the new directions strategy, with a focus on trade and investment, poverty alleviation and macroeconomic management. It held the view that the effective promotion of TCDC constituted one way of maximizing the use of scarce resources. Under the cooperative arrangement with ESCAP for the third-country training programme, which had entered its fifth year, the Government had implemented three training courses in 2001 with beneficiaries especially from the priority countries. Malaysia had also participated in various training programmes organized by other member countries, within the framework of TCDC, to promote the exchange of experience and expertise.

324. The Government of Pakistan had been conducting TCDC activities under its own technical assistance programme and had extended training opportunities to other developing countries. It had also benefited from TCDC activities implemented by other developing countries and from participation in such activities supported by UNDP. To strengthen such activities, a memorandum of understanding had recently been signed with ESCAP to provide a third-country training programme.

325. In its efforts to share its development experience with other countries in the region, the Government of the Republic of Korea had promoted TCDC activities through the human resources exchange programme of the Korea International Cooperation Agency through its M.S. and Ph.D. programmes for international students at the Kwang-Ju Institute of Science and Technology, through post-doctoral fellowships for foreign researchers at the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation and through other advanced programmes of research and development.

326. The Executive Secretary stated that the Asian and Pacific region was unique in the sense that member countries shared their development experiences with other developing member countries in the region. He referred to chapter IV of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2002*, which dealt with South-South cooperation in the region. The secretariat was making efforts to develop some technical cooperation arrangements with the Government of India, especially in the areas of small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship development. The Executive Secretary planned to sign a similar memorandum of understanding with the Government of Sri Lanka.

327. The Executive Secretary reiterated his gratitude to the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, which had been traditional donor countries in support of the ESCAP programme of work over the years. The Commission welcomed the initiatives of the Executive Secretary in his efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources from non-traditional donor countries in support of activities relating to space technology applications and natural disaster management.

328. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 2001, which had amounted to US$ 15.67 million, represented an increase of about US$ 890,000 over the previous year's amount of US$ 14.78 million. Of the extrabudgetary resources received for 2001, US$ 4.69 million, or 29.95 per cent, had come from sources within the United Nations system; the remaining US$ 10.98 million, or 70.05 per cent, had come from donor and participating developing countries and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

329. Bilateral donors and participating developing countries had contributed a total of US$ 10.30 million, of which US$ 7.15 million was for the technical cooperation activities within its programme of work and US$ 3.15 million for institutional and programme support of ESCAP's three regional institutions, namely, APCTT, CGPRT Centre and SIAP, and for the Pacific Trust Fund. Among the developed donor countries, Japan remained the largest bilateral donor to ESCAP,

followed by the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands and Germany. Nineteen developing members and associate members had also contributed extrabudgetary funds in 2001, the largest being China, followed by India.

330. In addition to cash contributions, donor countries and developing members had provided about 244 work-months of the services of experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis, which had enhanced the implementation capacity of the secretariat's technical cooperation programme.

331. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the suggestions made by the secretariat in paragraphs 31, 32 and 34 of document E/ESCAP/1255. Those suggestions included (a) requesting all existing donors and cooperation partners to at least maintain and, where possible, increase the level of their extrabudgetary contributions for the implementation of ESCAP technical cooperation activities, (b) requesting all traditional bilateral donors to earmark some funds under their respective annual funding programmes for the conduct of impact evaluations of selected technical cooperation projects implemented with funds provided by them, with a view to utilizing the results of such evaluations to strengthen the project planning process as well as enhancing their impact in the member countries and (c) reiteration by the Commission of its previous appeal to participating members and associate members to increase their contributions to the three regional institutions, and in particular, to consider increasing the level of their minimum contributions to US$ 2,000 by the least developed countries and US$ 30,000 by the other developing countries towards the respective institutional costs.

332. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, mindful of the general slowdown in ODA, he had undertaken two missions to Europe in 2001, covering the Nordic countries as well as France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. He was hopeful that ESCAP would receive a measure of support from some of those non-traditional donors for its planned activities. He further informed the Commission that the United States had agreed to provide funding in response to the secretariat's request for funding support to the ESCAP project on reducing drug abuse and delinquency among youth in South-East Asia.

333. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries, developing members and associate members, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions. He urged the Commission to endorse his suggestions on measures to enable the secretariat to cope with the constraints it was facing. He pledged that ESCAP would exert its best efforts to assist the developing members and associate members, in particular, the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and the countries with economies in transition, through its technical cooperation programmes.

334. The Commission took note of the following contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2002.

335. *Bangladesh.* The representative of Bangladesh announced that his Government would communicate its intended contributions to the secretariat later.

336. *Bhutan.* The representative of Bhutan announced that her Government would communicate its intended contributions to the secretariat later.

337. *Brunei Darussalam.* The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced that his Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP and US$ 10,000 to APDC.

338. *Cambodia.* The representative of Cambodia expressed his Government's appreciation to the secretariat for the technical assistance it had provided and to donors for their financial contributions to ESCAP for those technical assistance activities. He indicated that his Government had made a commitment to contribute US$ 2,000 to the programme of work of ESCAP.

339. *China.* The representative of China recalled that the extrabudgetary contributions of China to ESCAP had been increasing during the previous few years. In 2001, its total extrabudgetary assistance to ESCAP and its subsidiary institutions had amounted to more than US$ 400,000. He announced that his Government would maintain its extrabudgetary contributions for 2002 at a similar level to that in 2001. In addition, upon the adoption by the Commission of the draft resolution on the establishment of APCAEM in China, his Government would make considerable contributions, in cash and in kind, for its operation for the next five years. He called on ESCAP to exert further efforts to solicit more contributions from donor countries for its technical cooperation activities and to increase the cost-effectiveness of such activities.

340. *Fiji.* The representative of Fiji announced that her Government would communicate its intended contributions to the secretariat later.

341. *India.* The representative of India announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	100 000 (in national currency)
(b)	CGPRT Centre	10 000
(c)	SIAP	15 000
(d)	APDC	5 000

Recalling the financial support of US$ 15,000 to RNAEM up to 2001, he indicated that India would consider providing appropriate support to RNAEM upon receipt of the proposal for its next phase. He suggested that ESCAP's regional institutions should adopt more aggressive marketing strategies, including the fee-based services adopted by APCTT. In collaboration with ESCAP, WTO and UNCTAD, an international conference on negotiations on maritime transport services would be organized soon. India could also collaborate with ESCAP in organizing training programmes on space applications at the United Nations Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific in India and in highway engineering for member countries. It also offered to share its expertise, experience and capabilities with other developing and least developed members, especially in the conduct of energy audits, the renovation of thermal and hydro plants and the installation of solar heaters and biogas plants, as well as providing consultancies on improving energy conservation.

342. *Indonesia.* The representative of Indonesia announced that the intended contribution of Indonesia to ESCAP was being finalized and would be communicated to the secretariat later.

343. *Islamic Republic of Iran.* The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	20 000
(b)	APCTT	5 000
(c)	SIAP	10 000
(d)	RNAEM	15 000

In addition, it would contribute US$ 5,000 to APDC.

344. *Japan.* The representative of Japan announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	1 097 000
(b)	Core fund for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation	72 000
(c)	CGPRT Centre programme support (in addition to the contribution to the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund)	196 800
(d)	SIAP	1 752 700
	and an in-kind contribution equivalent to	1 680 700

In addition, Japan would contribute US$ 96,000 to APDC and US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee. He suggested that in order to enhance the long-term financial viability of the regional institutions, recipient countries should start disbursing token contributions or increasing their contributions to those institutions.

345. *Lao People's Democratic Republic.* The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic announced that his Government would contribute US$ 2,000 to the ESCAP programme of work.

346. *Malaysia.* The representative of Malaysia announced that his Government's intended contribution for 2002 would remain the same as that for 2001.

347. *Marshall Islands.* The representative of the Marshall Islands announced that her Government would contribute US$ 5,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

348. *Micronesia (Federated States of).* The representative of the Federated States of Micronesia announced that his Government would contribute US$ 5,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund. A cheque for that amount had been presented to the secretariat.

349. *Mongolia.* The representative of Mongolia announced that his Government would communicate its intended contribution to the secretariat later.

350. *Myanmar.* The representative of Myanmar announced that his Government's intended contributions for 2002 would remain the same as for 2001, as follows:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	2 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	1 000
(c)	SIAP	1 000

351. *Nepal.* The representative of Nepal announced that his Government's intended contributions for 2002 would remain the same as for 2001, as follows:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	3 000
(b)	APCTT	1 500
(c)	CGPRT Centre	500
(d)	SIAP	1 000

352. *Pakistan.* The representative of Pakistan stated that his Government expected to maintain its contribution to SIAP at the level of US$ 15,000, and would contribute US$ 5,000 to APDC. His Government had resumed contributions to the CGPRT Centre in 2000.

353. *Philippines.* The representative of the Philippines announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

(a)	APCTT	P 245 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	P 343 000
(c)	RNAEM	P 441 000
(d)	SIAP	P 490 000

In addition, it would contribute US$ 5,000 to APDC.

354. *Republic of Korea.* The representative of the Republic of Korea announced that his Government would contribute a total of US$ 695,000 in 2002, as follows:

		US$
(a)	Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	400 000
(b)	APCTT	10 000
(c)	CGPRT Centre	10 000
(d)	SIAP	10 000
(e)	RNAEM	10 000
(f)	Regional poverty alleviation project through replication of *Saemaul Undong*	120 000
(g)	CCOP	60 000
(h)	APDC	75 000

He further indicated that total funding assistance of US$ 226,000 had been committed for the regional poverty alleviation project for the period 2002-2004. He explained that the services of eight experts and one consultant were being provided to ESCAP on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

355. *Russian Federation.* The representative of the Russian Federation announced that his Government would communicate its intended contributions to the secretariat later.

356. *Thailand.* The representative of Thailand announced that her Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	15 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	5 000
(c)	SIAP	20 000
(d)	Trust fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	2 000
(e)	Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

In addition, Thailand would contribute US$ 44,000 to APDC, US$ 40,000 and B 1,021,825 to CCOP, US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee and US$ 1,000 to the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund.

357. *United States of America.* The representative of the United States of America stated that the pledging of intended contributions might be done more appropriately through written submissions than through the current format. Nevertheless, his Government would contribute US$ 300,000 for a two-year project on reducing drug abuse and delinquency among youth in South-East Asia.

358. *Viet Nam.* The representative of Viet Nam announced that her Government would maintain the same level of its intended contributions in 2002 as in 2001, which included US$ 5,000 for the ESCAP programme of work, US$ 4,000 for APCTT, US$ 2,990 for RNAEM and US$ 5,000 for APDC.

359. In announcing the intended contributions for 2002, several delegations emphasized that their Governments attached great importance to the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and the training activities of regional institutions and pledged to continue their support and cooperation. They also expressed support for the secretariat's plans to intensify its efforts in mobilizing additional extrabudgetary contributions from traditional and non-traditional donors.

360. Several delegations from the Pacific island countries reported on their financial difficulties and urged the Commission to continue to provide financial assistance for their participation in the inter-governmental meetings of the Commission and in the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP.

361. Several delegations expressed the need to exert further efforts to secure adequate institutional and programme support funds for the three regional institutions of ESCAP. The Commission urged that, apart from stronger programme support from donor countries and cooperation partners, beneficiary participating countries of those institutions should exert greater efforts in increasing their institutional support to them.

362. The total pledges of contributions to ESCAP for 2002 made by 17 members and associate members amounted to approximately US$ 6.96 million, comprising US$ 4.48 million in cash and an estimated US$ 2.48 million in kind. Those amounts did not include contributions announced for CCOP, APDC, the Typhoon Committee and the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund.

363. The Commission noted that the total pledges did not include possible contributions from other members and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources for projects executed by ESCAP to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were not reflected in the total pledges.

364. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to members, associate members and donor countries for the intended contributions announced at the current session. He also expressed appreciation to donor countries such as France, Germany and the Netherlands, which were not represented at the pledging meeting but had confirmed that they would make extrabudgetary contributions for the implementation of ESCAP projects

in 2002. He reiterated the determination of the secretariat to make the most cost-effective use of those contributions for the benefit of the developing members and associate members, in particular, the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the countries with economies in transition, through the ESCAP technical cooperation programmes. He urged that more affluent members of ESCAP seriously consider allocating more funds to TCDC activities, including those conducted under third-country training programmes.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

365. The Commission had before it a summary of the annual report of APDC for 2001 (E/ESCAP/1256).

366. The Director of the Centre reported that 2001 had been another difficult year from the financial point of view. Contributions from the members had declined to US$ 438,000, as compared with US$ 870,000 in 1997. Subsequently, an independent critical analysis and strategic positioning study for APDC had been conducted and preliminary indications pointed to a positive response by members, namely, that APDC could still be relevant and useful. However, a favourable financial solution must be found to assist the Centre.

367. The Director further reported that despite the limited resources available, APDC had continued to implement programmes and projects for its members, including a Conference on Globalization and SME Development, held in Malaysia; an executive briefing, "Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand – Growth Triangle"; a Regional Round Table, "From Development Aid to Economic Cooperation: Converging Paths to Environmental Sustainability in Asia"; a Pacific Gender Training Assessment Meeting in Papua New Guinea; and consultancy services for the Commonwealth Secretariat at the Asian Regional Gender Mainstreaming Workshop, held at Dhaka.

368. The Director expressed deep gratitude for the continued support provided by members, notably the host country Malaysia, and urged the members to increase their financial commitments to APDC.

369. A number of representatives commented on the work of the Centre and made some useful suggestions for it to consider in order to be more transparent and useful in the future.

Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

370. The Commission had before it the report of CCOP (E/ESCAP/1257).

371. The Commission noted with appreciation that CCOP had devoted itself to promoting capacity-building, technology transfer, exchange of information and institutional linkages for sustainable resource development, management of geo-information, geohazard mitigation and protection of the environment. A total of 11 technical meetings and workshops aimed at the transfer of knowledge and technology had been successfully completed and attended by at least 457 participants from the member countries. In the georesources sector, the project for resource evaluation and planning had continued and a new project on petroleum policy and management had been initiated. Seminars and workshops on enhancing marginal petroleum field development through technology, regional geochemical exploration and compilation of a groundwater and geothermal resources database had been organized. The geo-environment sector had focused on the completion of the Coastplan Project and the compilation of geo-information on large urban areas. The geo-information sector had continued its activities related to setting up the Southeast Asian Network for a Geological Information System and Geoscience Research Information Dissemination Network programme and had held a workshop on maximizing geoscience data value.

372. The Commission also noted the formulation of a new CCOP Strategic Plan that would serve as a guide in conducting various programmes on geoscience for the sustainable development of the region, redefined into three sectors covering seven programmes:

- Georesources sector, consisting of minerals, energy and groundwater programmes
- Geo-environment sector, consisting of coastal zone, geohazards and environmental geology programmes
- Geo-information sector, consisting of the geodata and geoscience information management programme

373. The Commission also noted the strong commitment by the members and the enhanced level of support of cooperating countries and organizations. The Republic of Korea indicated that it would consider supporting a project on the delineation of landslide risk areas. The Commission was pleased to note the close cooperation between CCOP and ESCAP in undertaking joint activities and information exchange.

374. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance extended by Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and other countries and organizations that had cooperated in carrying out the activities. It noted with appreciation the support by the Government of Thailand through the Department of Mineral Resources in providing the excellent facilities for the smooth functioning of the CCOP Technical Secretariat at Bangkok.

Mekong River Commission

375. The Commission had before it the report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/1258), which was introduced by the Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2001/02.

376. The Commission noted with appreciation the important achievements and progress made by MRC in 2001 in consolidating the changes initiated under its programmes in the previous year, including the implementation of the programme approach for all projects and activities in its work programme in close cooperation with all the MRC component units and with greater participation by a range of stakeholders. It noted the important achievements in the navigation programme, including the harmonization of navigation aids carried out jointly by ESCAP and MRC in cooperation with Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam; the finalization of the MRC strategy on hydropower development in 2001; and the revision of the MRC Strategic Plan for 2001-2005. In particular, it noted that, in November 2001, the MRC Council had adopted the draft procedures for data and information exchange and sharing, which had been the first major policy decision of the member countries since the signing of the 1995 Agreement on Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin.

377. The Commission noted the increased support extended to MRC by an increasing number of regional organizations in developing various management strategies for the sustainable development of natural resources in the Mekong River Basin, including programmes on the basin development plan, water utilization, environment, flood management and mitigation, fisheries, biodiversity, hydropower and capacity-building. It also noted that the new formula which had been adopted in 2000 for annual contributions by country members, aiming at eventual self-reliance in financial terms, was fully operational and that an annual increase in contributions was in effect. The Commission also noted the successful mobilization of financial resources for various key programmes and projects from seven donors with time frames of one to five years amounting to US$ 15.62 million in 2001, and the signing of cooperation agreements with five new international partners. It took note of the improvement in the dialogue between MRC and the upstream States through the signing of an agreement between China and MRC, at Phnom Penh in April 2002, for the provision of hydrological information on the Lancang/Mekong for the purposes of flood management and mitigation.

378. The Commission was pleased to note that those developments, together with donor commitment in previous years, had enabled MRC to make significant progress towards establishing itself as an efficient river basin organization capable of implementing the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

Typhoon Committee

379. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/1259), which was introduced by a representative of the Typhoon Committee.

380. The Commission noted with appreciation the important achievements and progress of work by the Committee and its members in 2001 on the meteorological component, including observations, forecasts and warnings of typhoons; on the hydrological components, including flood forecasts and warning, as well as storm surge forecasts; and on the natural disaster reduction component. It noted with appreciation the important contribution of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center at Tokyo in its continued provision of numerical weather products to the Committee members.

381. The Commission noted the increase in the subregional cooperation activities of the Committee in the fields of meteorology, hydrology, training and research and the increased importance attached by the Committee to addressing the impacts of water-related disasters, including an increase in research and the improvement of forecasts. It took particular note of the Committee's decision to adopt the new Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan incorporating the key principles and concepts underlying the proposed logical framework, together with the newly articulated vision statements, broad goals and priority objectives for its programme of action, including the detailed supporting action, success indicators and financial resources required to ensure effective achievement of the Committee's priority objectives. The Commission was pleased to note the successful implementation of the comprehensive review of the hydrological component and the disaster prevention and preparedness component, which had been carried out in 2001 jointly by ESCAP, WMO, the Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS) and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan, and the continued support they had provided in the implementation of the recommendations of the review undertaken in 2002. The Commission noted the continued support provided by ESCAP to the various activities of the Committee members and the valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Typhoon Committee since its establishment.

382. The Commission was informed that the Committee had re-established three main working groups responsible for the implementation of the newly adopted Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan, the coordination of typhoon research activities and the implementation of the priority recommendations of the comprehensive review of the hydrological component and disaster prevention and preparedness component, in accordance with the priority needs of the members.

383. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for its continued hosting of TCS and for providing a full-time meteorologist and support staff and the continued services of the Coordinator of TCS. It also expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the continued services of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center at Tokyo and the continued support provided by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan.

Panel on Tropical Cyclones

384. The Commission had before it the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/1260), which was introduced by the representative of the Panel.

385. The Commission noted with appreciation the achievements made and the activities undertaken by the Panel in 2001 and its contribution to disaster reduction and preparedness measures through monitoring, forecasting and disseminating information on tropical cyclones and hydrological hazards, and the excellent cooperation among its members in those activities. It expressed particular appreciation of the improvement in data exchange among several member countries of the Panel to enhance the effectiveness of flood forecasting in international river basins, and urged that such cooperation be further strengthened.

386. The Commission encouraged the initiative and continued efforts of the Panel to assign names to tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in order to enhance public awareness.

387. The Commission also noted the importance attached by the Panel to capacity-building in all components of its work programme and its decision to establish a Working Group to Review the Coordinated Technical Plan, to adopt the theme "Tropical cyclone-related disasters and poverty alleviation in the Panel area" for the Panel's thirtieth session in 2003 and to request ESCAP, WMO and the Technical Support Unit of the Panel to undertake, in 2002, a comprehensive survey aimed at further strengthening cooperation among the members, with a priority focus on water-related disaster reduction.

388. It noted the support provided by the ESCAP secretariat for various activities of the Panel, especially those related to the hydrological and disaster preparedness components of its work, and the continuing valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Panel over the years.

389. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Myanmar for hosting the twenty-ninth session of the Panel at Yangon in March 2002 and to the Government of Pakistan for the support provided to the Panel in hosting the Technical Support Unit and providing a coordinator and a meteorologist. It took note with appreciation of the valuable contribution of India to the work of the Panel and its continuous support, especially the forecasting services of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre at New Delhi.

390. The Commission noted that a trust fund had been established with WMO for the activities of the Panel and encouraged the Panel members and other ESCAP members to contribute to that fund. It urged donor countries and institutions to provide support for the work of the Panel and directed the secretariat to continue to provide the Panel with substantive support within the framework of its own programme of work.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

391. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1261 and Add.1, containing the report of ACPR.

392. The report of ACPR was introduced by the representative of the United States on behalf of the Rapporteur. During the period under review, May 2001-April 2002, ACPR had held nine regular sessions, six Informal Working Group meetings and an ACPR retreat. The period covered by the report had coincided with the Executive Secretary's efforts to revitalize ESCAP with a view to enabling more efficient delivery of the programme of work of ESCAP. Such efforts of the Executive Secretary had been welcomed by ACPR and contributed to a more interactive relationship between ACPR and the secretariat. The Open-ended Informal Working Group of ACPR had also been active during the period, with in-depth discussions on the concept paper "Focusing ESCAP's programme" and consideration of the proposed new ESCAP conference structure and the terms of reference of the proposed thematic committees. The open and frank manner of the Executive Secretary in conducting the sessions of ACPR was seen as setting an exemplary precedent.

393. In keeping with its mandate, ACPR had advised and assisted the Executive Secretary on issues relevant to the work of ESCAP. It had also played a visible role in reviewing the programme and conference structure and the programme of work of the secretariat, including the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003, and in assisting the work of the subsidiary bodies and the preparations for the high-level meetings organized by ESCAP. Furthermore, a number of issues and activities pertaining to the work of ESCAP had called for in-depth deliberation and exchange of views as well as cooperation between ACPR and the secretariat. They included: review of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission; review of progress in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the Commission at that session; review of the

implementation of the programme of work as at 31 December 2001 and proposed changes to the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003; preparations for and review of one ministerial conference, three legislative meetings, five intergovernmental meetings (including the Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure), and one session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries; and preparations for the current session of the Commission.

394. The Commission noted the fruitfulness of the work of ACPR during the period under review. In particular, it appreciated the work undertaken by ACPR pertaining to the review of the programme and conference structure and the preparations for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission. It recognized the important role of ACPR as an interface between member countries and the secretariat. It agreed that ACPR contributed to improving the efficiency and transparency of the work of the Commission.

395. The Commission expressed appreciation of the high quality of the work undertaken by ACPR in the preparations for, and review of, inter alia, the Second Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held at Seoul from 12 to 17 November 2001, and the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Phnom Penh from 27 to 29 November 2001. The usefulness of the work of ACPR in maintaining a dialogue between the Commission and the secretariat was repeatedly noted with appreciation. The local presence of member countries, which only ACPR could provide, was considered valuable.

396. The Commission, while expressing general satisfaction with the work of ACPR during the period under review, felt that the future role of ACPR needed to include managerial as well as appraisal functions. ACPR wished to be kept informed of the mobilization and use of extrabudgetary resources, the general thrust of the work of ESCAP and its staff policy. The Commission expressed the hope that ACPR would maintain a regular dialogue with the secretariat on ways to ensure the efficiency of the new conference structure and enhance cooperation and coordination with other regional organizations. The Commission felt that ACPR sessions should be more frequent and that no fewer than 10 sessions a year should be held. The quality of the sessions, including the relevancy and necessity of the issues to be discussed, should be ensured.

Date, venue and theme topic for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission

397. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1262. Taking into account the convenience of the host country, Thailand, which had traditionally provided logistical support in facilitating the holding of the session, the Commission decided to hold the fifty-ninth session of the Commission at Bangkok in May 2003. The exact dates would be determined by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Governments of members and associate members.

398. The Commission decided that the theme topic of the fifty-ninth session would be "Integrating economic and social concerns, especially HIV/AIDS, in meeting the needs of the region".

Ministerial Round Table

399. The Executive Secretary briefly traced the history of ESCAP from its inception at Shanghai, China, in 1947 as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), through its reconstitution as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 1974, up to the present. He highlighted some of the major achievements of ECAFE and ESCAP over the years, but suggested that in recent times ESCAP had appeared to be overshadowed by other global and regional organizations. That gave rise to the question of what the comparative advantages of ESCAP were and whether the organization should continue to chart its course along familiar lines or whether it needed to change. The Executive Secretary answered those questions by reiterating the necessity of revitalizing ESCAP, a task that he had vigorously pursued since assuming his present office.

400. The Executive Secretary recalled that the new programme of work of ESCAP would focus on three thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues, and outlined their respective sectoral priorities. He briefed the Round Table on the new conference structure as agreed during the Senior Officials' Segment, which comprised three thematic committees, eight sectoral subcommittees as well as the existing two Special Bodies. He explained that the new conference structure would enable ESCAP to maintain a clear direction in implementing its work while achieving a better balance between thematic and sectoral priorities. It would also strengthen interdisciplinary teamwork in the secretariat to serve the membership better. In addition, improvements would be made to the format and content of meetings as well as in the documentation. With those changes, ESCAP was expected to attract higher and wider government representation, which would enable a more meaningful exchange of good practices and foster dialogue on regional issues, resulting in more concrete outcomes.

401. The Executive Secretary placed particular emphasis on devising ways to make Commission sessions more interesting and attractive to the members and associate members. One such option involved holding Commission sessions outside Bangkok every two years. The Executive Secretary noted with

appreciation that the Government of China had agreed to host the sixtieth session of the Commission at Shanghai in 2004, in order to mark that special anniversary at ESCAP's birthplace. Another option related to changing the format of the Commission sessions as a means to make them more dynamic and interactive.

402. The Executive Secretary highlighted various initiatives he was taking to strengthen the secretariat, which included (a) changing the management culture, (b) improving staff competencies, (c) enhancing project planning, monitoring and evaluation for more effective operational programmes and (d) strengthening resource mobilization capabilities.

403. With those changes, the Executive Secretary hoped to enhance the capacity of ESCAP to pursue its mission while delivering more responsive programmes to meet the emerging needs of the members and associate members. He expressed the hope that in working together, the entire membership would have a stronger ownership of ESCAP. In concluding, he appealed to the members and associate members to recommit themselves to the value of regional cooperation and solidarity, repositioning ESCAP to meet new challenges in an increasingly interdependent world and rebuilding ESCAP as a stronger institution that would promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples in the Asian and Pacific region.

404. The Round Table joined the Executive Secretary in welcoming the participation of Afghanistan in the Commission session.

405. The Round Table expressed appreciation of the work which the secretariat had done so far under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, and in close consultation with the members and associate members, to make ESCAP more effective and relevant to the needs of its members and associate members. It fully endorsed the ESCAP revitalization package as presented to the Commission at its current session. It expressed full support for the three thematic focus areas and the new conference structure, which would effectively deliver the ESCAP programme of work under the new focus areas.

406. The Round Table appreciated the unique role which ESCAP had played in the Asian and Pacific region. In particular, it noted its comparative advantage in contributing multidisciplinary expertise in dealing with cross-cutting issues. Given the limited availability of resources, the Round Table felt that ESCAP should continue its efforts to remain focused and results-oriented. Some participants expressed the hope that ESCAP would continue to assist its members and associate members by acting as a "pool of knowledge" that would be made available to enhance capacity-building in areas of special interest to them. It was stressed that the issues facing least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be accorded particular attention. The Round Table highlighted the special needs of island developing countries, recognizing their difficulties in steering clear of marginalization and acknowledging the potential threat of rising sea level posed by the phenomenon of global warming.

407. In response to the Executive Secretary's request for feedback on issues relating to the revitalization of the Commission sessions, much of the discussion focused on the suggestion to hold sessions in locations other than Bangkok and on ways to make them more relevant and dynamic. The Round Table welcomed, and expressed appreciation of, the Government of China's decision to host the sixtieth session of the Commission. The anniversary would constitute a most symbolic opportunity to reflect on ESCAP's role in Asia and the Pacific and define a vision for its future.

408. The Round Table agreed that, beyond the sixtieth session of the Commission, subsequent sessions could also be held outside Bangkok from time to time. It was expected that convening the Commission at places other than Bangkok would increase the visibility of ESCAP in the region, would be likely to attract higher-level participation, would help to highlight the work of ESCAP, particularly in the country hosting a given Commission session, and might have a positive economic impact on the host country. However, the Round Table stressed that the possible rotation of the venue should not be institutionalized and should be left to the initiative of particular host countries, which should submit their offer at least two years prior to the event and would need to bear the costs of organizing the session. The additional costs involved in holding Commission sessions in locations other than Bangkok could not be financed through ESCAP's regular budget, particularly since the United Nations had invested a considerable sum in building a modern conference centre at Bangkok. Similarly, the Round Table agreed that while holding special summit meetings involving heads of Government and senior ministers could be considered, such meetings should not be institutionalized and could be held if and when required.

409. With respect to the proposed revitalization of the Commission sessions, some countries expressed their support for maintaining the current format of the plenary sessions, which allowed ESCAP members and associate members, particularly the smaller countries, to make prepared statements on specific issues under discussion or issues of special national or regional concern. The Round Table agreed that there was a need to encourage ESCAP members and associate members to make statements that pertained to the subjects under consideration and to keep within the time limit. The possibility of inviting eminent persons from Asia and the Pacific to make presentations on particular issues, as well as holding side events and involving non-governmental organizations and the media, was also

discussed. Overall, the Round Table agreed that there was scope for improvement and requested the secretariat to present concrete proposals to the Commission at its next session through ACPR.

410. The Round Table supported the continuation of informal ministerial-level discussions, emphasizing that such forums provided useful opportunities for frank exchanges at a senior policy-making level. The organization of ministerial-level retreats or comparable informal gatherings during Commission sessions could be considered, particularly during those years when the Commission was not preoccupied with issues relating to budgets and programme planning. The Round Table recommended that such informal meetings be well prepared and that issue papers ("non-papers") outlining different options be circulated sufficiently in advance.

411. Overall, the Round Table agreed that beyond the more organizational issues relating to the format and possible rotation of the Commission sessions, greater and higher-level participation by ESCAP members and associate members would only be achieved when ESCAP could prove its important role in tackling economic and social issues in the Asian and Pacific region. To that end, much would depend on the extent to which ESCAP could show not only that its programme of work addressed the needs of the region, but also that it was implemented effectively and had a concrete impact. Some concern was voiced that ESCAP's programme of work and the terms of reference of the committees continued to be rather broadly defined, implying that ESCAP would continue to face the challenge of needing to focus its activities more in order to achieve a greater impact. Similarly, it was suggested that ESCAP should remain alert and flexible in adjusting to the changing needs of its membership. To that end, the Round Table welcomed the planned mid-term review of the programme and conference structure, scheduled for 2005.

412. The Round Table expressed hope that the revitalization efforts would enable ESCAP to recapture the leading role it had once enjoyed in supporting the economic and social development of its members and associate members and strengthening their capacity to face the challenges and seize the opportunities posed by the rapidly changing regional and global environment.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION

58/1. Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission [1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991, 48/2 of 23 April 1992 and 51/3 of 1 May 1995 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also its resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, in particular, its decision to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic priorities and subsidiary structure, no later than at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission,

Cognizant of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the objectives outlined in the relevant millennium development goals, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, and other internationally agreed development goals,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995 on multilingualism, in particular, paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 thereof,

Recognizing that the major economic and social development challenges facing countries and areas of the Asian and Pacific region are interrelated and multidimensional in nature, particularly in an increasingly globalizing world, and that effective approaches to addressing them require multidisciplinary action as well as enhanced regional cooperation and intercountry exchanges of experiences,

Cognizant of the scope of the responsibilities of the Commission, which comprises the largest region in the world in geographical coverage and contains 62 per cent of the world's population as well as the majority of the world's extreme poor,

Noting the diversity in levels of development of countries and areas of the Asian and Pacific region and the special needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing economies, and economies in transition,

Noting also the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Taking into account the indivisibility in attainment of economic and social development goals,

Commending the initiatives taken by the Executive Secretary to revitalize and restructure the programme of work of ESCAP and endorsing the focus of ESCAP work on three key thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

Having considered the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure, held at Bangkok from 26 to 28 March 2002,

1. *Decides* to revise its conference structure, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to conform to the following pattern:

(1) *The Commission*

The Commission shall meet annually, with each session comprising a senior officials' segment followed by a ministerial segment, for up to a maximum of seven working days to discuss and decide on important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

(2) *Subsidiary structure*

A. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following three thematic committees and their respective subcommittees, as well as the two existing special bodies:

(a) Committee on Poverty Reduction;

(b) Committee on Managing Globalization;

(c) Committee on Emerging Social Issues.

The three thematic committees shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session.

Under the Committee on Poverty Reduction, the following two subcommittees shall be established:

[1] See paragraphs 110 to 119 above.

(a) Subcommittee on Poverty Reduction Practices;

(b) Subcommittee on Statistics.

Under the Committee on Managing Globalization, the following four subcommittees shall be established:

(a) Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment;

(b) Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism;

(c) Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development;

(d) Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology.

Under the Committee on Emerging Social Issues, the following two subcommittees shall be established:

(a) Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups;

(b) Subcommittee on Health and Development.

The subcommittees shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session. Should the Committee on Poverty Reduction so decide, the Subcommittee on Statistics shall meet annually for a maximum duration of three days for each session.

The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be retained. Their sessions shall be held biennially for a maximum of two days, one each in alternate years, back to back with the annual sessions of the Commission.

B. The revised structure is shown in chart form in annex I to the present resolution.

(3) *Ad hoc ministerial conferences*

(a) Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences may be organized on specific issues, but no more than one such conference shall be held per year;

(b) In those years when a ministerial conference is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee/subcommittee, the corresponding committee/subcommittee may not be convened.

(4) *Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings*

(a) Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings may be convened with the prior approval of the Commission, to carry out a detailed examination of substantive and priority issues, including relevant cross-sectoral issues;

(b) No more than five such intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days shall not exceed twenty-five.

(5) *Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission*

The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present resolution. The Advisory Committee shall examine ways to enhance and improve its ability to advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, the programme budget, work programme priorities and resource allocation, consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission, and to monitor and evaluate the implementation, outcome and effectiveness of the Commission's programme of work in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee, and shall report back to the Commission regularly.

(6) *Existing regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission*

The following regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(b) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery.

(7) *General provisions*

(a) *Functions*

The functions of the committees and special bodies are specified in their respective terms of reference in annexes III-VII to the present resolution. The committees shall deal with issues covered under their respective terms of reference in a comprehensive manner following an intersectoral and thematic approach.

(b) *Rules of procedure*

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the committees/ subcommittees and special bodies.

(c) *Informal session*

An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be

institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least 30 days before the opening of the session, to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, under the direction of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and in conformity with the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the subsidiary structure of the Commission and implement its revised programme of work under the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform members and associate members of his preliminary assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission within the next six months;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to explore in close consultation with the members and associate members, including through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, innovative ways, including possible changes to the format of the Commission session, to bring about greater ministerial participation and more active exchanges among representatives at the sessions of the Commission and to submit his recommendations to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session;

5. *Commends* the secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions establishing language arrangements for both the official languages and the working languages of the Commission and urges the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to monitor closely the strict implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at subsequent sessions on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve in particular as the basis for a mid-term review to be conducted during the sixty-first session concerning the functioning of the conference structure;

7. *Decides* to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, taking into account the outcome of the mid-term review of the conference structure, no later than at its sixty-third session.

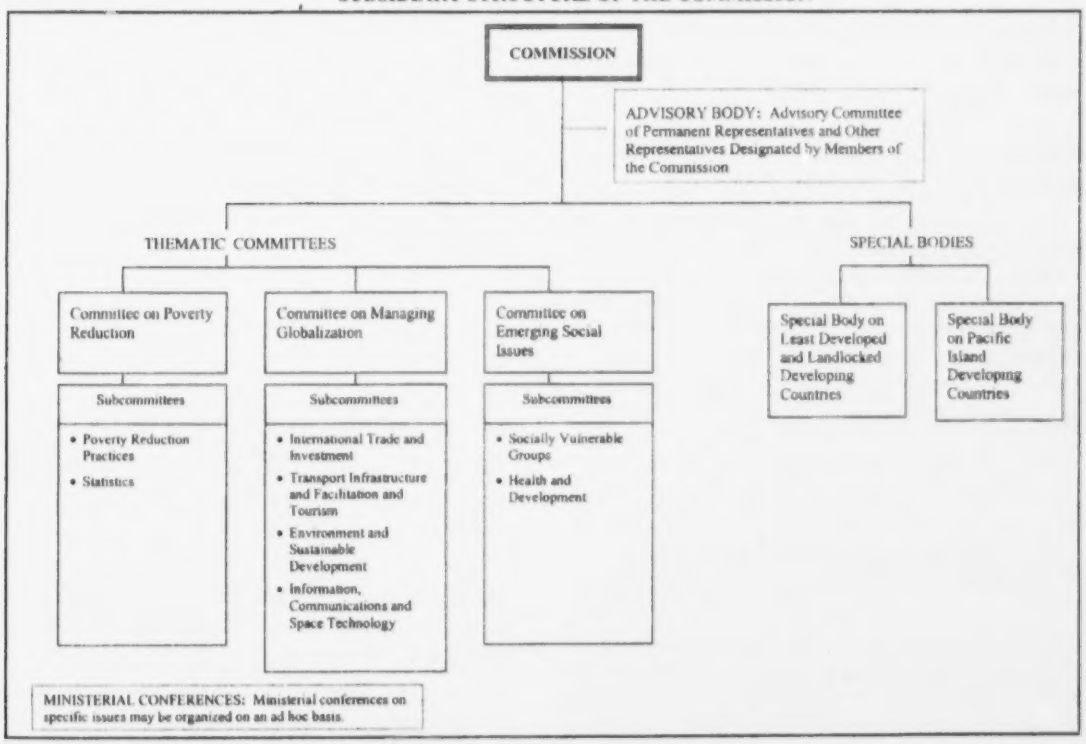
5th meeting
22 May 2002

ANNEXES

Annex I

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION


COMMISSION
ADVISORY BODY: Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
THEMATIC COMMITTEES
SPECIAL BODIES
Committee on Poverty Reduction
Committee on Managing Globalization
Committee on Emerging Social Issues
Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries
Subcommittees
• Poverty Reduction Practices
• Statistics
Subcommittees
• International Trade and Investment
• Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism
• Environment and Sustainable Development
• Information, Communications and Space Technology
Subcommittees
• Socially Vulnerable Groups
• Health and Development
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES: Ministerial conferences on specific issues may be organized on an ad hoc basis.

Annex II

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

1. To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission.

2. To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, programme budget and priorities, consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission.

3. To receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of ESCAP, and to assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work.

4. To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission session.

5. To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission, bearing in mind chapter II of its rules of procedure.

6. To advise the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas of the Commission sessions.

7. To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized.

8. To monitor the functioning of the thematic approach and the implementation of activities under it, in order to provide an assessment of the thematic approach and to suggest to the Commission at the appropriate time potential modifications to or changes of the themes.

9. To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY REDUCTION

A. Poverty is the leading development challenge facing developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, with two thirds of the world's poor living in this region. The urgent need for effective action on poverty reduction is reflected in the United Nations millennium development goals, which call for the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to be halved by the year 2015. Poverty is a multidimensional and dynamic phenomenon with complex and interlinked issues requiring an integrated focus on economic, social and environmental areas.

Against this background, the Committee on Poverty Reduction shall serve as a regional forum to assist members and associate members in meeting the objectives of (a) developing strategies and policies to reduce poverty in a rapid and sustained manner and improve the quality of life of the poor, (b) strengthening national statistical infrastructure to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics through the promotion of common methodologies for intercountry comparisons and improvement in the quality of statistics and (c) developing and sharing experiences concerning best practices in poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas.

The goal of the Committee shall be to enable the members and associate members of ESCAP to better design and implement pro-poor policies and strategies to attain the millennium development goals.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall:

1. Review the progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the relevant millennium development goals.

2. Analyse global and regional trends and developments, including emerging economic and social issues, which have an impact on poverty levels in the region, with a special focus on recommending policy options that support pro-poor economic growth and prevent social inequities.

3. Review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region, assist in the strengthening of national statistical infrastructure and promote the improvement of the quality of statistics, with emphasis on the following areas:

(a) Improvement and harmonization of methodologies for poverty measurement and related economic and social statistics;

(b) Priority fields of statistics identified by members and associate members, including, but not limited to, national accounts, the informal sector, gender statistics, environment statistics and statistics on information and communications technologies and the knowledge-based economy.

4. Promote the exchange of experiences and the transfer of best practices on poverty reduction, as well as human and institutional capacity-building, with special emphasis on:

(a) Integrating poverty reduction, sustainable development and environmental protection;

(b) Integrating poverty reduction and population dynamics and migration;

(c) Strengthening the economic and social position of the poor through a needs-, development- and rights-based approach;

(d) Enhancing the participation of the poor in decision-making through community-based organizations;

(e) Fostering the development of sustainable and affordable information and communications technology focused on the needs of the poor.

5. Review and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of ESCAP and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the Pacific island countries, landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

6. Strengthen liaison with governmental and non-governmental, regional and bilateral organizations as well as private sector entities to support poverty reduction policies and strategies that maximize synergies and avoid duplication of effort.

7. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant agencies of the United Nations system to minimize overlap and duplication as well as promote increased liaison with financial institutions, development agencies outside the United Nations system, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the ESCAP region so as to maximize the use of available resources and enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's work in addressing critical development challenges in the region.

8. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

9. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to poverty reduction.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on the reduction of poverty.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following two subcommittees:

(a) Subcommittee on Poverty Reduction Practices;

(b) Subcommittee on Statistics.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of poverty reduction, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The Committee may decide that, in addition to meeting in years when the Committee does not meet, the Subcommittee on Statistics could meet in the alternate years to deliberate in particular on matters referred to in 3 (b) above. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level. With regard to the reports of the Subcommittee on Statistics covering issues related to 3 (b), the Committee on Poverty Reduction should review those reports and also make them available to the other committees, as appropriate, taking into account the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Statistics.

Annex IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON MANAGING GLOBALIZATION

A. The process of globalization has profound, and still unfolding, implications for the region's economic and social development. The challenge is how to manage globalization effectively by formulating and implementing effective policies to seize the new opportunities while minimizing inevitable costs. In this context, the Committee on Managing Globalization shall address issues within the focused subprogramme areas of (a) international trade and investment, (b) transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism, (c) environment and sustainable development and (d) information, communications and space technology.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall:

1. Review and analyse emerging economic issues and their implications for the region and recommend policy guidelines which could be considered for adoption by Governments.

2. Review and analyse trends and developments in order to raise understanding of the implications of World Trade Organization agreements, regional trading arrangements and other multilateral trade negotiations and recommend appropriate activities to strengthen capacities of countries to consider accession to the World Trade Organization and to enable developing countries and economies in transition to participate actively in international trade negotiations.

3. Promote the development of internationally competitive trade by rationalizing and automating documentation, promoting the simplification and harmonization of trade rules and enhancing conformity with standards and certification as well as enhancing management skills.

4. Promote the exchange of experiences and the sharing of best practices in investment promotion and facilitation and strengthen countries in building capacity to formulate and implement policies and strategies in support of enterprise and entrepreneurship development, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

5. Promote further development of sustainable tourism by strengthening capacities of human resources and institutions and promoting regional cooperation, especially networking of training institutions.

6. Serve as a catalyst for action in formulating and implementing national, regional and interregional transport initiatives with a particular focus on the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and the development of intermodal transport linkages to improve access to domestic and global markets.

7. Promote a comprehensive approach to removing institutional and physical barriers in order to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services and strengthen the development of multimodal transport/logistics services, including transit facilities, to enable active participation in the process of globalization.

8. Review, analyse and document transport trends and policy responses and assist members and associate members in addressing issues that focus on public/private partnerships and promotion of participatory approaches to the integration of economic, social and environmental considerations into transport planning and policy development.

9. Review and assess the state of the environment in the region and highlight the major environmental considerations with a view to encouraging the integration of such concerns into development policies, strategic plans and programmes at the macroeconomic and sectoral levels and facilitating policy dialogues, training and exchange of experiences.

10. Promote human and institutional capacity-building to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to global, regional, national and local environmental plans for participation in developing, acceding to and implementing multilateral environmental agreements. In this regard, promote the formulation and dissemination of regional perspectives and model legislation and standards as well as economic instruments that would be appropriate in the light of prevailing economic, social and environmental conditions, and support regional and subregional environmental cooperation.

11. Assist in capacity-building, formulation and implementation of strategies and action plans for sustainable use of natural resources, particularly water resources, with a special focus on problems of water quality and access to safe drinking water for the poor.

12. Strengthen national capacities in preventing, mitigating and managing water-related disasters and promote and strengthen collaboration with the secretariats of the relevant conventions in combating land degradation, desertification and the negative effects of climate change, and coordinate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on deforestation through the promotion of regional cooperation.

13. Promote capacity-building in sustainable energy development through policy advice, human resources development and exchange of information so as to support national efforts in strategic planning and management and in enhanced utilization of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement by integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions; and support subregional cooperation in energy sector development, energy trade and sharing as well as policy reforms.

14. Promote capacity-building for creating an enabling environment for the development of information and communications technology (ICT) transfer and application, particularly through regional cooperation and networking of governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations for the benefit and mainstreaming of developing economies and economies in transition.

15. Promote regional cooperation and effective integration of satellite-based ICT applications with other information technologies for informed sustainable economic and social development planning and management, and improved quality of life, particularly integrated remote sensing and satellite communications for remote and rural areas, poverty mapping and distance education.

16. Promote collective self-reliance and South-South cooperation, such as in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and regional resilience.

17. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of ESCAP and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition are adequately addressed.

18. Strengthen the relationship with relevant subregional organizations to promote intra-subregional and intersubregional cooperation.

19. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences relevant to the work of the Committee, at the national, subregional and regional levels, evaluate progress and provide guidance on the formulation and implementation of regional action programmes.

20. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the region and relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlap and duplication and strengthening cooperation with those organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

21. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

22. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to managing globalization.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on managing globalization.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following four subcommittees:

(a) Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment;

(b) Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism;

(c) Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development;

(d) Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of managing globalization, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level.

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMERGING SOCIAL ISSUES

A. The Asian and Pacific region faces new and continuing challenges from global and regional development trends that have a deep impact on individuals, families and communities. Many in this region face barriers to equal participation and full enjoyment of the right to development because of gender, age, disability, income or other factors. There are other threats to "human security" relating to the rise in HIV/AIDS infection and human trafficking and other crimes. Furthermore, new regional challenges arise from the rapidly ageing population and international migration, which have an impact on overall socio-economic development.

The Committee on Emerging Social Issues shall be responsible to the Commission for assisting members and associate members in meeting the theme objective of designing and implementing effective policies and strategies to promote equal opportunities for the productive participation of all social groups and the overall improvement of the quality of life.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall:

1. Review and analyse major development trends so as to anticipate and identify emerging social development challenges and issues having an impact on the Asian and Pacific region, focusing on socially vulnerable groups, including women, youth, people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, the ageing population, migrants and people living with HIV/AIDS.

2. Promote social policy development and the mainstreaming of social dimensions in national development programmes.

3. Promote the goals of Education for All, particularly through mainstreaming education in all relevant programmes, especially for socially vulnerable groups.

4. Recommend appropriate national capacity-building strategies at all levels for improving the development and delivery of basic social services such as education, health and nutrition, removing barriers to equal participation and threats to human security, focusing on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in tackling persistent and emerging social issues.

5. Recommend multisectoral strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support, including preventive education and public awareness programmes.

6. Provide guidance to the secretariat on the formulation of medium-term plans and biennial programmes of work to prevent or mitigate critical social problems and promote the right to development of all social groups focused on key areas under item 1 above, through support for normative and operational activities, including:

(a) Implementing technical assistance projects, providing advisory services, conducting training and research and fostering information development and exchange;

(b) Identifying and disseminating best practices;

(c) Conducting integrated, multisectoral social policy analyses and dialogue.

7. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of ESCAP in addressing persistent and emerging social issues and recommend measures to strengthen the programme's impact and relevance, taking into account the comparative advantages of ESCAP.

8. Promote regional cooperation among ESCAP members and associate members to strengthen political commitment and advocacy and generate action at all levels to prevent and mitigate any adverse social impacts of development trends. In this regard, attention should be paid to those emerging social issues that could best benefit from close regional cooperation and collaboration.

9. Accelerate national, subregional and regional follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of relevant global conferences, monitor and evaluate progress and provide guidance on the formulation and implementation of regional action programmes, taking into account pertinent recommendations of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and other intergovernmental United Nations subsidiary organs.

10. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as increased liaison with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the business sector, and liaise with financial institutions, donors and supporting countries within and outside the ESCAP region so as to maximize resources and the impact of the Commission's work in addressing critical social development challenges in the region.

11. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

12. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to emerging social issues.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on emerging social issues.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following two subcommittees:

(a) Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups;

(b) Subcommittee on Health and Development.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of addressing emerging social issues, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level.

Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. The special problems and particular situations concerning the economic and social development of the Pacific island developing countries related to their isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards have been recognized by the international community and within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the implementation of the United Nations millennium development goals. These particular situations in Pacific island developing countries require focused priority attention in order to mainstream these countries into the ongoing regional integration process and associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall provide a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing this group of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Special Body shall:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the Pacific island developing countries, including constraints to their development.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels that allow these countries to maximize the benefits from globalization.

3. Assist in capacity-building of Pacific island developing countries.

4. Foster and strengthen intercountry and intersubregional cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the Pacific island developing countries and with other countries in the region.

5. Promote liaison, particularly through the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the Pacific island developing countries.

6. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of ESCAP and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and gender concerns are adequately addressed.

7. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences relevant to small island developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the implementation of the millennium development goals.

8. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

9. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

10. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to Pacific island developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back to back with the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

Annex VII

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON LEAST DEVELOPED AND LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. The special problems and constraints to the economic and social development of the least developed and landlocked developing countries have been recognized by the international community, and within the context of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the International Development Strategy and the implementation of the United Nations millennium development goals. These constraints require focused priority attention in the Asian and Pacific region in order to mainstream the least developed and landlocked developing countries into the ongoing regional integration process and associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries shall provide a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing these groups of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Special Body shall:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the least developed and landlocked developing countries and undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints to the development of least developed and landlocked developing countries.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels that allow these countries to maximize the benefits from globalization, with emphasis on the adoption of measures for increased mobilization of domestic and foreign resources, trade and private sector development, public sector reform and provision of advisory services on relevant issues, on request, to Governments.

3. Support national capacities in least developed and landlocked developing countries, including those related to the formulation of development strategies at the national and sectoral levels.

4. Foster and strengthen intercountry cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the least developed and landlocked countries and with other developing and developed countries in the region.

5. Promote a comprehensive approach to removing institutional and physical barriers in order to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services and strengthen the development of multimodal transport/logistics services, including transit facilities, to enable active participation in the process of globalization.

6. Without duplicating work done elsewhere, review and analyse the special transit trade and transport problems of Asian landlocked developing countries, recommend suitable measures for solving those problems in accordance with international agreements, in particular, article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and encourage the Asian landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to cooperate, inter alia, in order to reduce transport costs in the final costs of delivered goods.

7. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

8. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of ESCAP and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

9. Accelerate follow-up to the relevant decisions and recommendations of global conferences related to least developed and landlocked developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular, the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

10. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as increased liaison with financial institutions, development agencies outside the United Nations system, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the ESCAP region so as to maximize the use of available resources and enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's work in addressing critical development challenges faced by least developed and landlocked developing countries.

11. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

12. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to least developed and landlocked developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back to back with the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

58/2. Poverty reduction for sustainable development[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the millennium development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which called for the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to be halved by 2015,

Recognizing that the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, emphasized the need to mobilize and increase the effective use of financial resources and achieve the national and international economic conditions needed to fulfil internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, to eliminate poverty, improve social conditions and raise living standards,

Taking note with appreciation of the increase in official development assistance by some developed countries as a welcome step towards meeting the urgent need to achieve the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product, including the commitment by the European Union to increase the level of official development assistance to 0.39 per cent of gross national product as well as the announcement by the United States of America at the International Conference on Financing for Development of a projected increase in annual official development assistance by 5 billion dollars,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, particularly principle 5 of the Rio Declaration and chapter 3 of Agenda 21, which called for eradicating and combating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Reaffirming that poverty reduction is the most important tool to achieve sustainable development and contribute to world peace,

Recognizing that the lack of development and consequent poverty will cause environmental degradation, which in turn leads to increasing poverty, and that, in particular, the pervasive deterioration of soil due to overfarming poses serious challenges to sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region, making the return of overcultivated land to forest and grasslands, in keeping with national plans, a matter of prime urgency,

Also recognizing that sustainable development, including the reduction of poverty, will depend on enhancing the participation of the poor in decision-making that directly affects their lives, through good governance, as described in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus,

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[2] See paragraphs 214 to 232 above.

Further recognizing that while long-standing problems causing poverty remain unsolved, the emergence of the new economy and the information and communications technologies revolution has, in addition to offering new opportunities, also widened the digital divide, which has introduced new obstacles to comprehensive economic growth and sustainable development,

Noting that the above issues will be discussed at the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held at Geneva in 2003 and at Tunis in 2005,

Acknowledging that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon with complex and interlinked issues requiring an integrated and holistic approach on the economic, social and environmental fronts, as well as the necessary financial resources from all sources and official development assistance,

Reaffirming the important role of appropriate economic and social policies in utilizing the resources, as well as creating a favourable macroenvironment for poverty reduction,

Stressing the necessity of broadening the means of resource mobilization for poverty reduction from the Governments to the private sector at all levels, with a view to establishing a new type of partnership among these stakeholders in providing not only funds but also tools for achieving prosperity,

Also stressing the importance of strengthening social protection and social safety nets, not only to cushion the vulnerable sectors from the impact of globalization but, more important, to serve as an enabling strategy to improve the chances of these sectors to achieve social and economic integration,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members:

(a) To support the reform of the Commission in mainstreaming its work programmes to make poverty reduction one of its priorities, as well as assisting, where requested, in developing relevant programmes at the national level to make poverty reduction a key issue when realizing the goals set by the Millennium Declaration;

(b) To encourage the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in its entirety, including urging developed countries that have not achieved the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to make concrete efforts towards that goal and the goal of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets; acknowledge the efforts of all donors and commend those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are nearing the targets; and underline the importance of examining the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

(c) To formulate appropriate domestic policies for a better economic and social environment, so as to maximize the impact of the resources for poverty reduction efforts;

2. *Also calls upon* members and associate members, in the context of poverty reduction and sustainable development:

(a) To encourage more sustainable use of fragile resources through the practice of returning overcultivated land to forest and grasslands in keeping with national plans and priorities and taking into account the needs and the rights of the local population, generating public support and mobilizing resources for plant substitution and reimbursement to local farmers following best practices;

(b) To foster and adopt suitable policies, at both the national and regional levels, in promoting the new economy towards a digital society in Asia and the Pacific, with emphasis on the development of information and communications technologies, which may be utilized as a new tool for fighting poverty and for technology cooperation and capacity-building, as well as providing universal education to people by new means such as e-learning;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To appeal to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to target poverty reduction as an essential measure in achieving sustainable development, with the outcomes applicable to all stakeholders in the field of poverty reduction, taking into account that the Asian and Pacific region has over half of the world's population and the majority of the world's poor;

(b) To support the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/207 of 21 December 2001 and the preparation of an overall review on the progress of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), drawing on the experiences, both positive and negative, accumulated in this field in the last decade;

(c) To mobilize and allocate human and financial resources within the ESCAP secretariat so as to reflect the prioritization of poverty reduction in the ESCAP programme of work in 2003 and in the years ahead;

(d) To promote more harmonized coordination among the various divisions of ESCAP in charge of the environment and sustainable development, as well as poverty reduction, in developing a comprehensive and action-oriented programme of work in this regard;

(e) To continue to show special concern for disadvantaged groups, such as women, children, disabled persons, indigenous groups and people in mountainous and remote areas, in the process of development of the programme of work for 2003.

5th meeting
22 May 2002

58/3. World Summit on Sustainable Development[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering that the World Summit on Sustainable Development will provide a significant opportunity to galvanize global action towards the full and effective implementation of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in June 1997,

Recalling paragraph 22 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, which reaffirms global support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21,

Noting with satisfaction the regional preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, culminating in the successful organization of the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which adopted the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in pursuit of sustainable development and in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also the emphasis on strengthening sustainable development governance and the role which the regional commissions could play in effectively pursuing action to meet sustainable development needs at the regional level,

Further recognizing the importance of strengthening the role of ESCAP in implementing, coordinating and monitoring the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, as highlighted at the High-level Regional Meeting,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the outcome of the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, namely, the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, and calls for its early implementation;

2. *Requests* all members and associate members to participate actively in the implementation of the seven initiatives identified in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform: capacity-building for sustainable development; poverty reduction for sustainable development; cleaner production and sustainable energy; land management and biodiversity conservation; protection and management of and access to freshwater resources; oceans, coastal and marine resources and sustainable development of small island States; and action on atmosphere and climate change;

3. *Appeals* to all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, subregional organizations, regional development banks and multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies, and non-governmental organizations to contribute technical and financial resources to implement the outcome of the High-level Regional Meeting;

4. *Urges* all members and associate members to participate actively and fully in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the decision of the High-level Regional Meeting, at the highest level and encourages them to seek the support of the Summit in the implementation of the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize both technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform;

(b) To enhance intraregional cooperation and coordination with all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, subregional organizations, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations to develop or enhance regional sustainable development strategies and action plans that reflect regional priorities;

(c) To strengthen the role of the Commission in implementing, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21 and, in particular, the implementation of the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform;

(d) To carry out regular review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Phnom Penh Regional Platform as well as follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and to report to the Commission as well as to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, as necessary.

5th meeting
22 May 2002

[3] See paragraphs 107 to 109 and 194 above.

58/4. Promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century [4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and 56/115 of 19 December 2001 on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century,

Recalling also Commission resolutions 48/3 of 23 April 1992, by which the Commission proclaimed the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and 49/6 of 29 April 1993, by which the Commission noted with appreciation the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region and adopted the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002,

Recalling that the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held at Manila in October 1994, committed Governments to institute effective measures to provide people with disabilities access to existing services in the areas of education, health care, training for productive employment and other social services to ensure their integration into the mainstream of social development,

Recognizing that since the inception of the Asian and Pacific Decade, an overall improvement in all twelve policy categories under the Agenda for Action is evident, although achievements have been uneven, with significant achievements in the areas of national coordination and legislation and some improvement in the areas of the prevention of causes of disability, rehabilitation services, access to built environments and development of self-help organizations of disabled persons, but a continuing and alarmingly low rate of access to education for children and youth with disabilities and marked subregional disparities in the implementation of the Agenda for Action,

Mindful that the Hanoi Declaration of Campaign 2001 on the Facilitation of Community Integration of People with Disabilities, adopted by the participants in Campaign 2001 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Hanoi from 10 to 15 December 2001, urged Governments in the region to extend the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, for another ten years as a regional mechanism to facilitate the elaboration and implementation of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities,

Mindful also that recent World Bank estimates suggest that disabled persons may account for as many as one in five of the world's poorest, that disability limits access to education and employment and leads to economic and social exclusion and that poor people with disabilities are caught in a vicious cycle of poverty and disability, each being both a cause and a consequence of the other, and welcoming initiatives of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to integrate disability concerns into their poverty alleviation programmes,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and the decision to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all States Members and observers of the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

Also welcoming the endeavour towards the establishment, by 2004, of an Asian and Pacific Development Centre on Disability, at Bangkok, as a legacy of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities and a barrier-free society in the Asian and Pacific region, under the joint auspices of the Government of Thailand and the Government of Japan,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive programme planning and evaluation and the need for the further development of a practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities,

Recognizing further that information and communications technology provides new possibilities for improving access to information and educational and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation in society,

Noting that measures to improve access for persons with disabilities also benefit older persons, young children, pregnant women and parents with infants,

Expressing grave concern that the situation of armed conflict continues to have especially damaging consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities and acknowledging international efforts to rebuild Afghanistan after its long and devastating conflicts,

Welcoming with appreciation the organization of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, to be hosted by the Government of Japan and the Shiga Prefecture Government at Otsu City, Shiga, Japan, from 25 to 28 October 2002,

Noting that the year 2002 will conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,

[4] See paragraph 231 above.

1. *Proclaims* the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, for another decade, 2003-2012, with a view to giving further impetus to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons in the ESCAP region beyond 2002;

2. *Urges* Governments to support and contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and other activities concerning the convention, with a view to further promoting and protecting the equal rights of persons with disabilities;

3. *Urges* all members and associate members to participate actively in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and:

(a) To review the outcome of the implementation of the Agenda for Action;

(b) To formulate and adopt a framework for action for the next Decade with the goal of strengthening, inter alia:

(i) Key strategic areas, including education, training and employment, access to built environments and information and communications technology, social security and sustainable livelihoods;

(ii) Subregional cooperation and collaboration;

4. *Stresses* that, in fulfilling those objectives, the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting should pay particular attention, inter alia, to:

(a) Support for and strengthening of the formation of self-help groups of rural poor persons with diverse disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, and their federations, with a view to empowering them to become fully contributing members of twenty-first century inclusive and barrier-free societies;

(b) Active promotion of access to education for the full development of children with disabilities, including early intervention and support to their families in the development of national policies and programmes;

(c) Provision of special protection to girls and women with disabilities, older persons with disabilities and persons with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, with special emphasis on integrating them into Asian and Pacific societies and promoting their human rights;

(d) Promotional work to enable people with disabilities to participate in society by taking advantage of information and communications technologies and eliminating the digital divide in the Asian and Pacific region;

5. *Invites* United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the field of disability, to participate in and contribute to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, and its preparatory process, including organizing meetings and studies related to the themes of the High-level Meeting;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, international funding organizations, donor Governments and non-governmental organizations to explicitly include an estimated 800,000 Afghan disabled persons as a major target group of their support for the national rebuilding of Afghanistan;

7. *Encourages* all Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations to support the operation and activities of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre on Disability with financial, technical and other in-kind contributions, in recognition of the importance of the Centre, to be located in Thailand, as a viable means of consolidating achievements and ensuring long-term follow-up to the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, and encourages organizations of disabled persons, non-governmental organizations and the private sector also to provide appropriate support for the operation and activities of the Centre;

8. *Urges* Governments to strengthen the secretariat's capacity to provide technical assistance and training, in cooperation with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, in the development of statistics on disability and to build national capacities for national data collection systems, including the compilation and dissemination of data on disabled persons, as well as the development of methods for data collection and disability statistics, as appropriate;

9. *Urges* all concerned specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and subregional organizations and funding agencies to undertake an examination of their ongoing programmes and projects in the Asian and Pacific region, in particular, in the areas of poverty alleviation and other mainstream development issues, with a view to systematically integrating disability concerns into their work programmes and supporting national implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen, subject to available financial resources:

(a) The national capacity of members and associate members in developing and pursuing national programmes of action during the forthcoming Decade;

(b) Collaboration with other regional initiatives in the field of disabilities, including sharing of best practices in the implementation efforts of the African Decade of Disabled Persons, 2000-2009;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially until the end of the Decade on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, on action to maintain the momentum of the Decade.

5th meeting
22 May 2002

58/5. Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery[5]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 145 (XXX) of 5 April 1974 and 156 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 on the establishment of the Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery in the Philippines,

Recalling further that, subsequent to the recommendations made by the preparatory mission undertaken in 1974-1975 by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Commission itself, a project entitled "Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery" was established in April 1977 to provide assistance to participating countries of the region,

Noting with appreciation that the Regional Network, whose name was changed in 2000 to "Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery", provides very useful services to participating countries,

Recognizing the need to expand the scope of the Network to undertake activities related to post-harvest and processing technologies as well as agricultural engineering, consistent with the recommendations made at various meetings of the Network's Governing Body,

Recalling its endorsement at its fifty-seventh session of the recommendations of the Governing Body, including the upgrading of the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery from a network to a centre, so that membership and the availability of resources could be expanded,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of China for its support for the location of the Centre's headquarters at Beijing and for the provision of institutional costs and other operational costs for the Centre,

1. *Decides* to establish the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery at Beijing;

2. *Adopts* the Statute of the Centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre at Beijing, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

4. *Urges* its members and associate members as well as other States to contribute to the institutional costs to develop the institution as a centre of excellence;

5. *Urges* the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations in the field concerned, to provide programme support to the Centre and cooperate in the implementation of its work programme;

6. *Requests* donors to provide adequate programme funds and other support to meet the needs of the developing countries in the region;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to it on the progress made at each of its annual sessions and present a comprehensive review of the Centre's work performance in 2007.

5th meeting
22 May 2002

Annex

STATUTE OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY

Establishment

1. The Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (hereinafter referred to as "RNAEM"), a special project established in 1977 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP") resolutions 145 (XXX) of 5 April 1974 and 156 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975, shall, pursuant to Commission resolution 58/5 of 22 May 2002, continue in existence under the title "Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery" (hereinafter referred to as "APCAEM"), under the terms of the present Statute.

Objectives

2. The objectives of APCAEM are to enhance the technical cooperation among the members and associate members of ESCAP as well as other interested States Members of the United Nations, through extensive

[5] See paragraphs 181 to 187 above.

exchange of information, prototype exchange and technology-sharing, and to promote research and development and extension of agricultural engineering/machinery technologies in the region.

Membership

3. Participating members of RNAEM at the time of adoption of the present Statute (as listed in the appendix) shall, ipso facto, be members of APCAEM. Any other members and associate members of ESCAP or any States Members of the United Nations that wish to become members of APCAEM shall send a written notification to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who shall immediately inform the Director of APCAEM in writing. The latter shall, in turn, inform all the members in writing. Such membership shall start from the date on which members are notified.

Functions

4. In pursuance of the objectives stated in paragraph 2, APCAEM shall have the following functions:

(a) To provide assistance to its members by disseminating information on the improvement of agricultural products and other achievements, including agricultural mechanization, automation, sustainable rural development, biotechnology and genetic engineering;

(b) To assist in capacity-building through the promotion of research and development collaboration, establishment of data banks and information-sharing, including the utilization of information technologies in those areas, and the adaptation of agricultural and agro-related engineering technologies based on farm products, including exchanges of prototypes and expertise;

(c) To provide assistance to members through the organization of training on the above-mentioned areas and the organization of events for the commercialization and market expansion of suitable technologies;

(d) To assist in poverty alleviation and rural development through demonstration and pilot projects, implementation of proven practices and empowerment of rural women through their integration into mechanization and production activities, including on-farm agroprocessing;

(e) To assist in the formulation of policies and strategies for appropriate agricultural engineering and mechanization in order to keep up with the trends of globalization and technological advancements;

(f) To provide agro-engineering and agro-technical services to promote trade in agro-machinery products and technologies and training on adaptation to ISO and ISO 9000 standards and environmental management standards (ISO 14000) for agro-based products.

5. In pursuance of the functions stated in paragraph 4, APCAEM shall:

(a) Collect, analyse and disseminate information;

(b) Organize technical seminars, exhibitions and tours, exchanges of information and experience, including the organization of networks of appropriate institutions engaged in specific activities, such as the networks on green food and agro-related machinery;

(c) Organize training for appropriate personnel engaged in the development and adaptation of agro-related engineering and machinery technologies;

(d) Assist in exchanges of prototypes and expertise;

(e) Provide consultancy and advisory services.

Status and organization

6. APCAEM shall have the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP and be subject to the financial and staff regulations and rules of the United Nations.

7. APCAEM shall have a Governing Board, a Director and professional and support staff, and a Technical Advisory Committee.

8. The headquarters of APCAEM shall be at Beijing.

9. A host country headquarters agreement with respect to APCAEM shall be concluded between the Government of the host country in which the headquarters of APCAEM is located and the United Nations.

Governing Board

10. APCAEM shall have a Governing Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") consisting of one representative designated by the Government of the host country and no fewer than eight representatives nominated by other members or associate members of ESCAP. The representatives to be elected by ESCAP shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election.

11. The Director of APCAEM shall serve as the Secretary of the Board.

12. If a member of the Board is unable to serve for the full term, the vacancy shall be filled by the Government of the representative who is unable to complete his/her full term of office.

13. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Board, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized or related agencies, (c) such other organizations as the Board may deem appropriate and (d) experts in fields of interest to the Board may be

invited to attend meetings of the Board as observers without the right to vote. One ESCAP representative will be invited to participate in all meetings of the Board as an ex officio member without the right to vote.

14. The inaugural session of the Board shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP as soon as possible after the adoption of the Statute of APCAEM and subsequent regular sessions on an annual basis.

15. The Board shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. The Board shall meet in special session whenever a majority of its members requests the Executive Secretary to convene a special session.

16. A quorum for meetings of the Board shall be a majority of its members.

17. Each member of the Board shall have one vote. Decisions of the Board shall be made by consensus or, where that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

18. The Board shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Board. The Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Board.

19. The Board shall review and appraise the activities of APCAEM and the extent of the financial resources available to the Centre. The Board shall approve annual and long-term programmes of work for APCAEM and evaluate the implementation of such programmes.

20. The Board shall submit an annual report to ESCAP, to be considered at its annual Commission session, on the activities of APCAEM, the financial resources available to it and its present and proposed programmes of work.

Director and staff

21. APCAEM shall have a Director and staff to be appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative issuances. The appointment of the Director shall be made after consultation with the Board.

22. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration and financial status of APCAEM and the implementation of its programmes.

23. The Director shall prepare and submit to the Board an annual report on the administration and financial status of APCAEM and the implementation of its programmes.

Technical Advisory Committee

24. APCAEM shall have a Technical Advisory Committee consisting of technical experts designated by each member and associate member of ESCAP and representatives of ESCAP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

25. Representatives of other national and international institutions and of other agencies concerned with agricultural development and such other persons as the Board may deem appropriate may also be invited to participate, as necessary.

26. The Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the work programmes and on other technical matters concerning the operations of APCAEM.

27. Reports of meetings of the Committee, including the Director's observations on those reports, shall be submitted to the Board at its very next sessions.

28. The Committee shall meet at least once a year and shall be convened by the Director of APCAEM.

29. The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of APCAEM

30. The financial resources of APCAEM shall be composed of the following:

(a) The voluntary contributions of the members and associate members of ESCAP;

(b) Funds received from other Governments;

(c) Funds received from international and national institutions;

(d) Money received from the sale of publications and for services furnished by APCAEM;

(e) Other funds or moneys received by APCAEM, as considered appropriate by the Board.

31. A trust fund shall be established under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations for the receipt and administration of such financial resources.

32. APCAEM may also receive contributions of a non-financial nature.

33. The Commission shall at each session review the state of the resources of APCAEM on the basis of the report of the Board and make such recommendations as it may deem appropriate to ensure that timely and adequate resources are always available to APCAEM and its programmes and that a balance is maintained between resources and expenditure.

34. APCAEM shall be administered on a sound economic and financial basis.

Relations with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other international institutions

35. APCAEM may establish and maintain such relations as it may deem appropriate with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other international institutions.

Amendments

36. Amendments to the present Statute shall be adopted by ESCAP. Proposals for amendments shall be communicated to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and to the Director of APCAEM, who shall communicate them to all members at least three months prior to the Commission session on whose agenda they are to be placed. Proposed amendments to such proposals shall be communicated to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and to the Director of APCAEM at least one month prior to the Commission session.

Withdrawal of members

37. Any member may give notice of withdrawal from APCAEM at any time after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of adoption of the present Statute. Such notice shall take effect one year after the date on which it was communicated in writing to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The latter shall inform the Director of APCAEM in writing, and the Director shall, in turn, inform all members in writing.

Entry into force

38. The present Statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

Appendix

LIST OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL NETWORK FOR AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY AS AT 16 MAY 2002

1. Bangladesh
2. China
3. India
4. Indonesia
5. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
6. Nepal
7. Pakistan
8. Philippines
9. Republic of Korea
10. Sri Lanka
11. Thailand
12. Viet Nam

Annex I

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session will have no additional cost implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

2. Extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of activities required under the resolutions adopted at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.

Annex II

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND AD HOC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Subsidiary body/ministerial conference and officers	*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development *Chairperson*: Mr. R. Paul (India) *Vice-Chairperson*: Ms. Wanee Samphantharak (Thailand) *Rapporteur*: Mr. Ramatha Letchumanan (Malaysia)	Third session Bangkok 16-18 October 2001	E/ESCAP/1244
Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation *Chairperson*: Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dzung (Viet Nam) *Vice-Chairpersons*: Mr. Bountheuang Mounlasy (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Mr. Mao Thora (Cambodia)	Thirteenth meeting Hanoi 20-22 November 2001	E/ESCAP/1240
Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas *Chairperson*: Ms. Veronica Fenix Villavicencio (Philippines) *Vice-Chairperson*: Mr. Abdolreza Ghofrani (Islamic Republic of Iran) *Rapporteur*: Mr. Pakorn Amornchewin (Thailand)	Fourth session Bangkok 11-13 December 2001	E/ESCAP/1246
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries *Chairperson*: H.E. Mr. Alex Bartlett (Solomon Islands) *Vice-Chairperson*: Mr. Makir M. Keller (Federated States of Micronesia) *Rapporteur*: H.E. Ms. Adi Litia Samanunu Qalirea Talakuli Cakobau (Fiji)	Seventh session Bangkok 14-15 May 2002	E/ESCAP/1254
Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth *Chairperson*: Mr. Raj Kishore Mishra (India) *Vice-Chairpersons*: H.E. Mr. Tahir Budagov (Azerbaijan) Ms. Fusi Meleane Vave (Fiji) Mr. Vann Someth (Cambodia) *Rapporteur*: Mr. Chen Peng (China)	Bangkok 4-8 June 2001	E/ESCAP1263

[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body/ministerial conference and officers	*Session*	*Document symbol of report* [a]
Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure *Chairperson*: H.E. Mr. Lim In-Taik (Republic of Korea) *Vice-Chairpersons*: H.E. Mr. Nazmul Huda (Bangladesh) H.E. Dasho Leki Dorji (Bhutan) H.E. Mr. Zhang Guobao (China) H.E. Mr. Mehdi Tafazzoli (Islamic Republic of Iran) H.E. Mr. Shinya Izumi (Japan) H.E. Mr. Vadim Zverkov (Kazakhstan) H.E. Mr. Kubanychbek Jumaliev (Kyrgyzstan) H.E. Mr. Vonglokham Bouathong (Lao People's Democratic Republic) H.E. Dato Seri S. Samy Vellu (Malaysia) H.E. Mr. Jigjid Byamba (Mongolia) H.E. Mr. Chiranjibi Wagle (Nepal) H.E. Mr. Alexander V. Tselko (Russian Federation) H.E. Mr. Oleg V. Skvortsov (Russian Federation) H.E. Mr. Faumuina Liuga (Samoa) H.E. Mr. Khalikov Rustam Isufovich (Tajikistan) H.E. Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor Matha (Thailand) H.E. Mr. Turgunbay A. Azimbaev (Uzbekistan) H.E. Mr. Nguyen Viet Tien (Viet Nam) *Rapporteur*: Mr. Lennox Brian Vuti (Vanuatu)	Seoul 16-17 November 2001	E/ESCAP/1249
High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development *Chairperson*: H.E. Mr. Mok Mareth (Cambodia) *Vice-Chairpersons*: H.E. Mr. Vardan Ayvazyam (Armenia) H.E. Mr. Shahjahan Siraj (Bangladesh) H.E. Dato Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat (Brunei Darussalam) H.E. Ms. Deng Nan (China) H.E. Mr. Nabiel Makarim (Indonesia) H.E. Mr. Hironori Hamanaka (Japan) H.E. Mr. Radbek B. Eshmambetov (Kyrgyzstan) H.E. Mr. Michael Konellos (Marshall Islands) Hon. Resty Shataro (Federated States of Micronesia) H.E. Mr. Chimiddorj Ganzorig (Mongolia) H.E. Mr. Ramon Paje (Philippines) Hon. Tuala Sale Tagaloa (Samoa) H.E. Mr. Matkarim Rajapovick Rajapov (Turkmenistan) H.E. Mr. Bui Manh Hai (Viet Nam) *Rapporteur*: Mr. Effendy Sumardja (Indonesia)	Phnom Penh 27-29 November 2001	E/ESCAP/1234
Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure *Chairperson*: H.E. Ms. Rosalinda V. Tirona (Philippines) *Vice-Chairpersons*: H.E. Ms. Adi Litia Samanunu Qalirea Talakuli Cakobau (Fiji) H.E. Mr. Atul Sinha (India) *Rapporteur*: Mr. Jason Mundy (Australia)	Bangkok 26-28 March 2002	E/ESCAP/1235

Annex III

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION (LISTED BY AGENDA ITEM)

Agenda item	*Title*	*Symbol*
3	Provisional agenda	E/ESCAP/L. 148
	Annotated provisional agenda	E/ESCAP/L.149 and Corr.1
4 (a)	Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues	E/ESCAP/1232 and Corr.1
4 (b)	Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options	E/ESCAP/1233
4 (c)	Report on the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development	E/ESCAP/1234
5 (a)	Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure	E/ESCAP/1235
5 (b)	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005	E/ESCAP/1236
	Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001	E/ESCAP/1237 and Corr.1
	Proposed programme changes for 2002-2003	E/ESCAP/1238 and Corr.1
	Tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2002-March 2003	E/ESCAP/1239
6 (a)	Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its thirteenth meeting	E/ESCAP/1240
	Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation	E/ESCAP/1241
	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	E/ESCAP/1242
	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	E/ESCAP/1243
6 (b)	Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its third session	E/ESCAP/1244
	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 56/4 on promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island States	E/ESCAP/1245
6 (c)	Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its fourth session	E/ESCAP/1246

Agenda item	*Title*	*Symbol*
	Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	E/ESCAP/1247
	Report of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	E/ESCAP/1248 and Corr.1
	Report of the Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth	E/ESCAP/1263
6 (d)	Report of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure	E/ESCAP/1249
	Report on the implementation of Commission resolutions 48/11 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures and 52/9 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges	E/ESCAP/1250
	Report on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific	E/ESCAP/1251
6 (e)	Emerging issues and developments in statistics	E/ESCAP/1252
	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	E/ESCAP/1253
6 (f)	Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its seventh session	E/ESCAP/1254
7	Resource mobilization: technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	E/ESCAP/1255
8	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	E/ESCAP/1256
	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	E/ESCAP/1257
	Report of the Mekong River Commission	E/ESCAP/1258
	Report of the Typhoon Committee	E/ESCAP/1259
	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	E/ESCAP/1260
9	Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	E/ESCAP/1261 and Add.1
10	Date, venue and theme topic for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission	E/ESCAP/1262

Annex IV

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN 2001

A. List of publications *

Regional economic cooperation

Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific, tenth edition (ST/ESCAP/2164) (E.02.II.F.20)

Human Resources Development for Information Technology (ST/ESCAP/2138)

Implications of Globalization on the Industrial Diversification Process and Improved Competitiveness of Manufacturing in ESCAP Countries (ST/ESCAP/2197)

Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific, No. 26 (ST/ESCAP/2085) (E.01.II.F.4); No. 27 (ST/ESCAP/2126) (E.01.II.F.37)

Institutional Capacity-building to Deal with the Implications of TRIPS for Industrial and Technological Development: Case Study of India (ST/ESCAP/2188) (E.02.II.F.45)

Promoting Complementarities and Investment in Selected Manufacturing Sectors: Resource-based Industries and Poverty Alleviation (ST/ESCAP/2196)

Promotion of New Forms of Financing for Transfer, Development and Application of Environmentally Sound Technologies (ST/ESCAP/2127)

Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 31 (ST/ESCAP/SER.M/48) (E.01.II.F.36)

Studies in Trade and Investment: 44. *Enhancing Export Opportunities through Environmentally Sound Business Development* (ST/ESCAP/2120); 45. *Export Promotion for Economies in Transition: Central Asia and South Caucasus* (ST/ESCAP/2107); 46. *Export Competitiveness and Sustained Economic Recovery* (ST/ESCAP/2150) (E.02.II.F.7); 47. *Regional Perspectives on the WTO Agenda: Concerns and Common Interests* (ST/ESCAP/2161) (E.02.II.F.8); 48. *Accession to the World Trade Organization: Issues and Recommendations for Central Asian and Caucasian Economies in Transition* (ST/ESCAP/2160) (E.02.II.F.17)

TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin, Nos. 37-48

Development research and policy analysis

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 8, No. 1, June 2001 (ST/ESCAP/2129) (E.01.II.F.32); No. 2, December 2001 (ST/ESCAP/2147) (E.01.II.F.42)

Bulletin on Asia-Pacific Perspectives 2001/02: Asia-Pacific Economies: Coping with New Uncertainties (ST/ESCAP/2143) (E.02.II.F.2)

Development Papers, No. 22, *Privatization: A Panacea or a Palliative* (ST/ESCAP/2122) (E.01.II.F.33)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2001 (ST/ESCAP/2104) (E.01.II.F.18)

Governance Reinvented: The Progress, Constraints and Remaining Agenda in Financial and Corporate Restructuring in East and South-East Asia (ST/ESCAP/2148) (E.02.II.F.4)

Least Developed Countries Series, No. 4, *Review of Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/2121); No. 6, *Development Planning in a Market Economy* (ST/ESCAP/2174) (E.02.II.F.24)

Social development

Disabled Persons as Promoters of Non-handicapping Environments: Guidelines for Training Trainers (ST/ESCAP/2046)

Good Practices in Combating Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in Asia (ST/ESCAP/2187) (E.02.II.F.39)

HRD for the Empowerment of People with Disabilities: Seven Innovative Approaches Submitted for the 2000 ESCAP HRD Award (ST/ESCAP/2189) (E.02.II.F.42)

Human Resources Development in the Asian and Pacific Region: Health, Education and Employment Attainments (ST/ESCAP/2134) (E.01.II.F.35)

Poverty Alleviation through Human Resources Development: Best Practices from Selected Asian Countries (ST/ESCAP/2105)

Report of the Regional Conference: Asian Women for a Culture of Peace, Hanoi, 6-9 December 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2140) (E.01.II.F.39)

* Where applicable, United Nations publication sales numbers are shown in parentheses and start with the letter "E".

Review of the Human Resources Development Status of Youth in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/2135) (E.01.II.F.38)

Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in Pakistan: A Qualitative Assessment of Their Health Needs and Available Services in Selected Provinces (ST/ESCAP/2123)

Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in the Philippines: A Qualitative Assessment of Their Health Needs and Available Services (ST/ESCAP/2124)

Social Action Update, vol. 1, Nos. 1-3

Social Aspects of International Labour Migration in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/2117) (E.01.II.F.31)

Social Policy Paper, No. 1, *Policies and Programmes for Older Persons in Asia and the Pacific: Selected Studies* (ST/ESCAP/2146) (E.02.II.F.6); No. 2, *Pathfinders: Towards Full Participation and Equality of Persons with Disabilities in the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/2170) (E.02.II.F.19); No. 3, *Working towards Social Integration in the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/2169) (E.02.II.F.9); No. 4, *The Emerging Role of the Private Sector in Delivering Social Services in the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/2166) (E.02.II.F.10); No. 5, *Reducing Poverty and Promoting Social Protection* (ST/ESCAP/2168) (E.02.II.F.11); No. 6, *International Migration: An Emerging Opportunity for the Socio-economic Development of the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/2165) (E.02.II.F.40); No. 7, *Social Development Management Information Systems (SOMIS): Experience and Lessons Learned* (ST/ESCAP/2167) (E.02.II.F.34); No. 8, *Strengthening Policies and Programmes on Social Safety Nets: Issues, Recommendations and Selected Studies* (ST/ESCAP/2163) (E.02.II.F.22)

Studies on Women in Development, No. 3, *Improving the Status of Women in Poverty: A Comparative Study on Women's Status in Poverty in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and the Philippines* (ST/ESCAP/2106)

Using CEDAW at the Grass Roots: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2095)

Violence against Women in South Asia (ST/ESCAP/2099)

Women in Development Discussion Paper Series, No. 11, *Modalities, Measures and Strategies to Meet the Challenges of Gender Equality Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century in the Asian and Pacific Region*; No. 12, *Creating Business Opportunities for Women Through ICT*

Women's Organizations and Their Use of Information and Communication Technologies in the Caucasus and Central Asia Region: An Exploratory Assessment (ST/ESCAP/2142) (E.02.II.F.3)

Youth in Viet Nam: A Review of the Youth Situation and National Policies and Programmes (ST/ESCAP/2089)

Population and rural and urban development

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 15, No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/2125); vol. 16, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2131); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/2132); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/2145); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/2185)

Asian Population Studies Series, No. 156, *Adolescent Reproductive Health in the Asian and Pacific Region* (ST/ESCAP/2155) (E.02.II.F.18); No. 157, *Mortality and Poverty in the ESCAP Region: Identifying High-achieving Countries* (ST/ESCAP/2179)

Guidelines for Localizing the Habitat Agenda in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2154)

Reducing Disparities, Balanced Development of Urban and Rural Areas and Regions within the Countries of Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2110)

Rural Poverty Alleviation through Integrated Pest Management and Green Farming (ST/ESCAP/2112)

Environment and natural resources development

Air Quality in Asia and the Pacific: An Analysis in Relation to National and International Standards (ST/ESCAP/2040)

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal, vol. 13

Assessment of Drylands and Desertified Areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran (ST/ESCAP/2113) (E.02.II.F.12)

Atlas of Mineral Resources in the ESCAP Region, vol. 16, *Mineral Resources of Thailand* (ST/ESCAP/2176)

Atlas of Urban Geology, vol. 12, *Integrating Geology in Urban Planning* (ST/ESCAP/2152) (E.02.II.F.15); vol. 13, *Urban Geology and the Impact on Our Lives: Samples from Daily Life in Bangkok* (ST/ESCAP/2180) (E.02.II.F.32)

Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific 1997 and 1998 (ST/ESCAP/2115) (E.01.II.F.26)

Energy Efficiency: Promotion of Energy Efficiency in Industry and Financing of Investments (ST/ESCAP/2108) (E.01.II.F.22)

Energy Resources Development Series, No. 38, *Sustainable Energy Future: Policy Options, Barriers and Action Plans – "Shifting towards a Sustainable Energy Development Path"* (ST/ESCAP/2175) (E.02.II.F.26)

Environment and Natural Resources News, vol. 1, No. 1, March 2001; No. 2, June 2001; No. 3, September 2001; No. 4, December 2001

Guidelines for Stakeholders' Participation in Strategic Environmental Management (ST/ESCAP/2109)

High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development, Bali, Indonesia, 21-24 November 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2130) (E.01.II.F.29)

Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region, vol. 12, *Guidelines and Practices in Evaluation and Development of Industrial Minerals and Offshore Aggregates in Asia* (ST/ESCAP/2119) (E.01.II.F.30)

Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series, vol. 6, *Review of Policies, Strategies and Activities in Sustainable Development of Land and Mineral Resources in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/2092) (E.01.II.F.11); vol. 7, *Application of GIS for Integrated Assessment and Management of Mineral Resources in North-East Asia* (ST/ESCAP/2156) (E.02.II.F.16)

State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2087)

State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2000: Executive Summary (ST/ESCAP/2098)

The Minimum Common Programme Framework. Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development – Phase II (ST/ESCAP/2162)

Water Resources Journal, March 2001 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/208); June 2001 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/209); September 2001 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/210); December 2001 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/211)

Water Resources Series, No. 81, *Water Conservation. A Guide to Promoting Public Awareness* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/81) (E.01.II.F.34)

Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

Asia-Pacific Road Accident Database: User Manual (ST/ESCAP/2178)

Asian Highway Route Map: Asian Highway Network Connecting China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula

Assessment and Mitigation of the Impact of Transport Infrastructure and Services on the Spread of HIV/AIDS: An Annotated Bibliography (ST/ESCAP/2192)

Commercial Development of Regional Ports as Logistics Centres (ST/ESCAP/2194)

Comparative Analysis of Port Tariffs in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/2190)

Development of the Trans-Asian Railway: Trans-Asian Railway in the North-South Corridor – Northern Europe to the Persian Gulf (ST/ESCAP/2182) (E.02.II.F.37)

Economic Regulation of Transport Infrastructure Facilities and Services: Principles and Issues (ST/ESCAP/2191)

ESCAP Tourism Newsletter, Nos. 13 and 14

ESCAP Tourism Review, No. 21, *Opportunities and Challenges for Tourism Investment: A Case Study of the Republic of Korea and Reports from Selected Countries in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/2172) (E.02.II.F.30); No. 22, *Managing Sustainable Tourism Development* (ST/ESCAP/2141) (E.01.II.F.41)

Guidelines for the Harmonization of Navigation Rules and Regulations, vol. I, *Aids to Navigation* (ST/ESCAP/2186) (E.02.II.F.46)

Maritime Policy Planning Model: Regional Shipping and Port Development Strategies under a Changing Maritime Environment (ST/ESCAP/2153)

Multistage Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of Road Projects: Guidelines for a Comprehensive Process (ST/ESCAP/2177)

Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005): A Progress Report (ST/ESCAP/2181) (E.02.II.F.38)

Promotion of Investment in Tourism Infrastructure (ST/ESCAP/2133) (E.02.II.F.28)

Review of Developments in Transport and Communications in the ESCAP Region, 1996-2001: Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2157)

Road Networks Connecting China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula (ST/ESCAP/2173)

Sustainable Transport Pricing and Charges: Principles and Issues (ST/ESCAP/2139)

Traffic and Transportation for Sustainable Environment, Mobility and Access: Application of a Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Policy Development in the Rattanakosin Area of Bangkok (ST/ESCAP/2171) (E.02.II.F.27)

Train the Trainer Training Fundamentals: Instructor's Reference Manual (ST/ESCAP/2158)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 70, *Logistics for the Efficient Transportation of Domestic Goods* (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/70) (E.02.II.F.13); No. 71, *Governance for Sustainable Development in the Transport Sector* (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/71) (E.02.II.F.33)

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures, 2001 (ST/ESCAP/2151) (E.02.II.F.14)

Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1999-2000 Edition (ST/ESCAP/2101) (E/F.01.II.F.16)

Gender Statistics 2000

Government Computerization Newsletter, No. 16

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXXI, No. 1, March 2001 (ST/ESCAP/2116) (E.01.II.F.23), No. 2, June 2001 (ST/ESCAP/2127) (E.01.II.F.27), No. 3, September 2001 (ST/ESCAP/2136) (E.01.II.F.40), No. 4, December 2001 (ST/ESCAP/2149) (E.01.II.F.43)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 120-123

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2103) (E/F.01.II.F.1)

B. List of meetings

Regional economic cooperation

Training of Trainers on SMEs for the Directorate for Standards and Quality, Hanoi, January

Policy Seminar on Vietnamese Seafood Exports: Quality and Environmental Issues and Their Implications, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, January

Workshop on Basic Quality Management Principles, Phnom Penh, January

Training of Trainers for Small Business Development in Cambodia, Phnom Penh, January-March

Conference on the Export Potential of Cambodian Fishery Products in the International Market, Phnom Penh, February

Training Workshops on Quality Assurance in the Fishery Sector in Cambodia: Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, February

Training by Trainers on Work Improvement in Small Enterprises, Vientiane, February and May

National Workshops on Investment Promotion and Realization for Mekong Delta Provinces of Viet Nam, Can Tho, Viet Nam, February; for Southern Provinces, Ho Chi Minh City, February; for Northern Provinces, Hanoi, March; for Central Provinces, Danang, March

National Training Workshops on Export Promotion: Vientiane, February; and Nepal, February

National Workshops on Facilitating Trade in Indo-China: Phnom Penh, February; Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, May; Vientiane, June

Training of Trainers on Communication and Presentation Skills Training for Effective Consulting and Training, Hanoi, March

Concluding Workshop on the Capacity-building Initiative for Staff of Cambodian Ministries (provincial level), Phnom Penh, March

Meeting of Eminent Persons ("Friends of the Chair") on Integration of Asian Developing Countries into the International Trading System, Tehran, March

Ad Hoc Expert Group on Export Competitiveness and Sustained Economic Recovery, Bangkok, March

Expert Group Meeting on Integration of Industrial Activities at the Regional and Global Levels: Prospects and Challenges in an Era of Globalization and Liberalization, Bangkok, March

ESCAP/UNCTAD Regional Workshop on Commodity Export Diversification and Poverty Reduction in South and South-East Asia, Bangkok, April

ESCAP/Viet Nam Institute for Trade National Training Workshop on Trade Policy and Export Promotion, Hanoi, April

ESCAP/Foreign Investment Management Cabinet National Workshop on Investment Promotion and Realization for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, April

Business Management Training Courses under the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum: Vientiane, May; Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, September

Second ESCAP/WTO Trade Policy Course on WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for Asian Developing Economies, Bangkok, May-June

Subregional Workshop on Facilitating Trade in Indo-China, Phnom Penh, June

Subregional Workshop on Accession to the World Trade Organization: Economies in Transition, Tashkent, July

Workshop on the Emerging Economic Map of Asia: Regional Production Restructuring, Asian Integration and Sustainable Development, Bangkok, August

ESCAP/Council for the Development of Cambodia National Workshop on Investment Promotion and Realization for Cambodia, Phnom Penh, August

In-depth Training of Trainers on Occupational Health and Safety in Industry, Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand, August-September

International Symposium and Exhibition on Marine and Aquatic Product Processing Technology 2001, Rongcheng, China, September

ESCAP/UNCTAD High-level Meeting of ESCAP Developing Countries in Preparation for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, Bangkok, September

Doha and Beyond: Expert Group Meeting on the Future WTO Agenda, Bangkok, September

Trade Policy Course for Countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, September

ESCAP/APCTT/Council for the Development of Cambodia Training Workshop on Industrial Project Preparation and Management, Phnom Penh, October

China International Fruit and Vegetable Fair and International Forum on Fruit/Vegetable Technology, Xiamen, China, October

Third International Symposium and Exhibition on Fruit/Vegetable Processing Technology and Industrialization, Yantai, China, October

Expert Group Meeting on Revitalization of the Bangkok Agreement, Bangkok, October

Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement, seventeenth session, Bangkok, October

Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, thirteenth meeting, Hanoi, November

Workshop on Strategy for the Internationalization of SME E-commerce through the E-commerce Initiatives of Trade Promotion Organizations, Seoul, November

Greater Mekong Subregion Environmental Forum for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, November

Expert Group Meeting on Emerging Issues for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Commerce, Bangkok, December

Regional Consultative Meeting on the Promotion of Intraregional Trade and Economic Cooperation in the Automotive Sector, Seoul, December

Second Annual Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum, Vientiane, December

Development research and policy analysis

Senior-level Seminar on Development Planning in a Market Economy, Phnom Penh, January

Subregional Workshops on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-making Processes for East and South-East Asia, Manila, March; for Pacific Countries, Samoa, June

National Workshops on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-making Processes for the Philippines, Manila, March; for Thailand, Bangkok, October

Regional Seminar on Evaluation of Income/Employment-generating Programmes to Alleviate the Socio-economic Impacts of the Economic Crisis, Bangkok, May

Subregional Seminar on Financial and Corporate Sector Restructuring in East and South-East Asia, Seoul, May-June

Subregional Seminar on Macroeconomic Policy Analysis and Modelling in the Economies of Central Asia, Tashkent, June

Meeting of Eminent Persons on Current and Prospective Economic Performance in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, October

ESCAP/ADB Workshop on Mobilizing Domestic Finance for Development: Reassessment of Bank Finance and Debt Markets in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December

Social development

National ESCAP HRD Courses on Psychosocial and Medical Services for Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth: India, January; Philippines, January-February; Sri Lanka, January-May; Bangladesh, March-April; Pakistan, April-May

National Workshops on Social Safety Nets: Republic of Korea and Thailand, January; Indonesia, February

Meeting of the Jury of the 2000 ESCAP HRD Award, Bangkok, February

National Professional Training Course for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Osaka, Japan, February

In-country Training Workshop for the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments and Public Accessibility, Bangkok, March

Regional Planning Committee for ESCAP Youth Events, second session, Bangkok, March

Thematic Working Group on HIV/AIDS, second meeting, Bangkok, April

National ESCAP HRD Course for Poverty Alleviation on Rethinking Development Models, Thimphu, April

Informal Consultations on Regional Preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, Bangkok, April

Regional Seminar on Strengthening Policies and Programmes on Social Safety Nets, Bangkok, May

Expert Group Meeting on Social Safety Nets for Women, Bangkok, May

Thematic Working Group on Disability-related Concerns: second meeting, Bangkok, May; third meeting, Hanoi, December

Regional Training Workshop on the Inclusion of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Mainstream Gender Equality Initiatives, Phitsanulok, Thailand, June

Asia-Pacific Youth Forum of the United Nations System, Bangkok, June

Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, Bangkok, June

Third Asia Development Forum and Policy Seminar on Cyber Crime: Threats to the New Economy, Bangkok, June

Asian Women's Electronic Network Training 2001, Seoul, July

Regional Seminar on Art of People with Disabilities: Art for All, Bangkok, July

Regional Workshop on National Policies on Ageing and Follow-up to the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing, Manila, July

Regional Seminar on Using Legal Instruments to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children, Bangkok, August

ESCAP/UNDCP Workshop on Strategic Partnerships through International Tenders: Risks and Opportunities, Bangkok, September

National Review Workshop on Combating Sexual Abuse and Exploitation among Children and Youth: pilot projects in Phnom Penh and Hanoi, September; Vientiane and Kunming, China, October; Chiang Mai, Thailand, November

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Regional Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, September

National HRD Training of Trainers Course for Youth Development, Yangon, September

Conference on Business and Labour Responses to AIDS in Asia and the Pacific: Developing Public-private Partnership, Bangkok, September

Regional Seminar on Social Services for Older Persons, Macao, China, September

Regional Preparatory Consultation for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Macao, China, September

East Asia and the Pacific Regional Consultation for the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Bangkok, October

ESCAP/UNDCP Workshop on Drug Abuse, Bangkok, October

ESCAP/UNDP/SPC Subregional Workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for the Northern Pacific Island States, Palau, October-November

ESCAP/ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour HRD Training of Trainers Course on Psychosocial and Medical Services for Sexually Exploited Children and Youth, Bangkok, November

ESCAP/Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming, Bangkok, December

Expert Group Meeting to Review ICT Policy from a Gender Perspective, Bangkok, December

Regional Seminar on Improving Access to Social Services by the Poor and Disadvantaged Groups, Bangkok, December

Expert Group Meeting on Awareness Raising of Public Administration Personnel to Promote Disabled Persons' Participation in Mainstream Development, Bangkok, December

Population and rural and urban development

Expert Group Meeting on the Theme Study for the Fifty-seventh Session of the Commission, Bangkok, January

Preparatory Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Organic Agriculture for Rural Employment and Income Generation, Bangkok, May

Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors, Phitsanulok, Thailand, June

LOGOTRI (Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific) Training Workshop on the Concept and Characteristics of Good Governance, Kuala Lumpur, August

Regional Workshop on Integrated Plant Nutrition System Development and Rural Poverty Alleviation, Bangkok, September

Training Workshop on Information Repackaging, Beijing, October

CITYNET (Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements) Bangkok Congress 2001: People-centred Cities in a Globalizing World, Bangkok, October-November

Training Workshop on Information Technology for Population Information Professionals: Desktop Publishing, Beijing, November

Regional Workshop on Exploring the Potential of Organic Agriculture for Rural Poverty Alleviation in Asia and the Pacific, Chiang Mai, Thailand, November

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Poverty Reduction in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November

Environment and natural resources development

First Meeting of the National Focal Points for the North-East Asian Centre for Environmental Data and Training, Inchon, Republic of Korea, February

Subregional Meeting on Strategic Environmental Management for Central Asian Countries, Tehran, February

Regional Working Group on Satellite Communication Applications/International Telehealth Symposium, Bangkok, March

Group Training/Study Tour for Geothermal Energy Experts from the Russian Far East, Kyushu, Japan, March

North-East Asia Forum on Effective Consumer Information for Sustainable Energy Use, Beijing, March

Workshop on the Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/ Resources to Mineral Resources in the Philippines, Manila, March

Training Workshop on Flood Management for the Mekong Delta, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, March

Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, sixth meeting, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, April

Workshop on the Promotion of Public Awareness of Efficient Use of Water Resources, Tashkent, April

Asia-Pacific Forum on Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development, Tokyo, May

Regional Symposium on Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling, Bangkok, May

Regional Working Group on Space Science and Technology Applications, Beijing, May

ESCAP/UNICEF/WHO Expert Group Meeting on Geology and Health: Solving the Arsenic Crisis in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, May

Regional Seminar on the Commercialization of Biomass Technology, Guangzhou, China, June

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting to Review the Draft Guidelines on Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources Development, Bangkok, June

Intergovernmental Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, seventh session, Hanoi, June

Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning, seventh meeting, Hanoi, June

Fifth Forum on Urban Geology in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, June

Training Course on IT for the South-East Asian Network for a Geological Information System, Bangkok, June

Workshops on Energy Resources in Central Asia, Bishkek, June and November

Workshops on Water Issues in Central Asia, Bishkek, June and November

SPECA (Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia) Project Working Group on Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia, sixth session, Bishkek, June; seventh session, Bishkek, November

Seventh Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Beijing, July

Preparatory Meeting of Experts for the Seventh Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Beijing, July

Third Meeting of the Dialogue Forum on Regional Initiatives for Space Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, July

Intergovernmental Meeting for North-East Asia in Preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Beijing, July

Training Course on Efficient Energy Management in Industries, Dong Nai, Viet Nam, phase 1, July-August; phase 2, September

Multistakeholders Consultations for North-East Asia in Preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Beijing, July; for the Pacific region, Apia, September; for South Asia, Colombo, September; for Central Asia, Almaty, September

Eleventh Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, Kitakyushu, Japan, August

Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, Bangkok, August

Workshop on Evaluation and Improvement of Operational Flood Forecasting Models in the Typhoon Committee Area, Bangkok, August

International Symposium on Water-related Disaster Reduction and Response, Bangkok, August

Training Workshop on Water Supply, Bangkok, September

Expert Group Meeting on the Formulation of a Regional Water Strategy, Bishkek, September

National Seminars on Participatory Planning and Management for Flood Mitigation and Preparedness: Nanjing, China, September; Hanoi and Jakarta, October; Calcutta, India, November

North-East Asia Expert Group Meeting on Intercountry Cooperation in Electric Power Sector Development, Khabarovsk, Russian Federation, October

Regional Forum on Effective Campaigning for Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption, Seoul, October

Regional Workshop on Soil Erosion Risk Assessment, Kuala Lumpur, October

International Workshop on Water Conservation, Shanghai, China, October

First Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, Kitakyushu, Japan, November

High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Phnom Penh, November

Workshop on Strengthening Capacity in Participatory Planning and Management for Flood Mitigation and Preparedness in Large River Basins, Bangkok, November

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, thirty-fourth session, Honolulu, Hawaii, November-December

Regional Workshop to Finalize the Guidelines on Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources Development, Bangkok, December

Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources Development, Bangkok, December

Inter-agency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, forty-sixth session, Bangkok, December

Training Workshop on the Drafting of Implementing Rules and Regulations for Mining Laws of Transitional Economies, Bangkok, December

International Symposium and Training Workshop on Sediment Fans of the Indian Ocean and Implications for Marine Policy in the Twenty-first Century, Colombo, December

First Training Course on Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants in North-East Asia, Daejon, Republic of Korea, December

Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

Country-level Workshops on the Development of Freight Forwarding, Multimodal Transport and Logistics Management: Phnom Penh, February; Hanoi, July

ESCAP/International Association of Ports and Harbours Seminar on Shipping and Port Development Strategies, Bangkok, February

ESCAP/ADB Regional Workshop on Road Financing and Management, Manila, March

Country-level Seminars on Shipping and Port Development Strategies: Mumbai, India, March; Kuala Lumpur, Seoul and Shanghai, China, April; Colombo, May

ESCAP/ASEAN/Australia-New Zealand Closer Economics Relations Trade Agreement Freight Logistics Workshop, Bangkok, March

ESCAP/Japan Global Road Safety Partnership First Subregional Seminar on Enhancement of Road Safety in ASEAN Countries, Tokyo, March

Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector, twelfth meeting, Kunming, China, March

Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Container Demonstration Project in the Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, Bangkok, May

National Seminar on Sustainable Tourism Development: Community-based Development and Coastal Tourism Management in Indonesia, Jakarta, June

Subregional Workshop-cum-Study Tour on Safe Navigation on the Lancang-Mekong River, Jinghong, China, July

Training Programme on the Development and Management of Cultural Tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, July

Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, Jakarta, July

APETIT (Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism) Conference on Tourism Education and Training in the Asia-Pacific Region; sixth meeting of the Executive Committee of APETIT; second meeting of the General Council of APETIT; Seminar on Tourism Education and Training in the Asia-Pacific Region, Khajuraho, India, August

Workshop to Launch the Thailand Global Road Safety Partnership Programme, Bangkok, August

Workshop on the Formulation of Shipping and Port Development Policy, Bangkok, September

Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Asia-Europe Rail Container Transport Through Block Trains: Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, Bangkok, September

Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Asia-Pacific Road Accident Database, Bangkok, October

Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Road Networks Connecting China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula, Bangkok, October

Seminar on the Sustainable Development of Ecotourism in Pacific Island Countries, Suva, October

Country-level Workshop on Inland Water Transport Investment and Financing, Vientiane, October

Country-level Workshop on Safe Navigation on the Upper Mekong River, Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, October

Curriculum Development Workshop I - Mobilizing a Response to HIV/AIDS in the Maritime Industry, Bangkok, October

Expert Group Meeting on Harmonization of Aids to Navigation Systems on the Greater Mekong River, Bangkok, October

Symposium on Public-private Partnerships in Urban Transport, Bangkok, October-November

Expert Group Meeting on Multistage Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of Road Projects, Bangkok, November

Seminar on the Promotion of Buddhist Tourism Circuits, Kisarazu, Japan, November

ESCAP/AIT (Asian Institute of Technology) Seminar on Tourism and Poverty Reduction, Bangkok, December

Country-level Workshop on a Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Urban Transport Planning, Hanoi, December

Country-level Workshop on a Participatory Approach to Rural Infrastructure Planning, Hanoi, December

Expert Group Meeting on Regulatory Issues in the Transport Sector, Bangkok, December

Regional Workshop on Inspection and Maintenance Policy in Asia under the Global Initiative on Transport Emissions, Bangkok, December

Statistics

ESCAP/ADB Concluding Workshop on Rebasing and Linking of National Accounts Series, Bangkok, February

ESCAP/World Tourism Organization Regional Seminar on Tourism Statistics and the Development of Tourism Satellite Accounts, Bangkok, February

Regional Resource Group on Integrating Paid and Unpaid Work, fourth meeting, Bangkok, March; fifth meeting, Bangkok, September

ESCAP Working Party on the Application of New Technology to Population Data, sixth meeting, Bangkok, March

Workshop on Population Data Analysis, Storage and Dissemination Technologies, Bangkok, March

Subregional Training Workshops on Environment Statistics: second workshop, Hyderabad, India, April; third workshop, Port Vila, April-May; fourth workshop, Bangkok, September

ESCAP/ASEAN/United Nations Statistics Division Workshop on the Development of ASEAN Short-term Indicators, Bangkok, August

Seminar on Data Protection Technologies for National Statistical Offices, Seoul, August

Subregional Workshop on the 1993 System of National Accounts, Nadi, Fiji, September

Workshop on Integrating Paid and Unpaid Work into National Policies, Bangkok, September

ESCAP/United Nations Statistics Division Asian Workshop on Trade Statistics, Bangkok, October

ESCAP/OECD/ADB Workshop on Leading Indicators and Business Tendency Surveys, Bangkok, October

ESCAP/United Nations Statistics Division Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics for Selected Countries in the ESCAP Region – Pacific, Port Vila, November

Bureau of the Committee on Statistics, seventh meeting, Bangkok, November

Working Group of Statistical Experts, twelfth session, Bangkok, November

C. List of advisory services

Regional economic cooperation

Bangladesh, to advise the Export Promotion Bureau and the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports on potential export products, WTO issues and regional trade-related trends

Cambodia, to advise the relevant Cambodian authorities on the implementation status of the technical cooperation activities contained in the matrix of ESCAP assistance to Cambodia and on the follow-up action required

Cook Islands: (a) to advise the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration and the Development Investment Board on matters relating to regional trading arrangements and prospects for exports from the Cook Islands; and (b) to advise the Board on WTO matters, including regional trade arrangements and a programme of related activities in export promotion

India, to advise on policies for bringing e-commerce to rural areas in the context of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Regional Seminar on Electronic Commerce

Iran (Islamic Republic of), to examine the feasibility of establishing a regional cooperative policy mechanism and to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for economies in transition

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to provide guidance on the implementation of the various United Nations trade facilitation norms and recommendations, through participation in a national workshop

Malaysia: (a) to advise the Chief Executive and officials of the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation on trade opportunities in Mongolia; (b) to advise the Asia-Europe meeting on trade facilitation issues in WTO; (c) to provide advice on global ICT development and commerce at the meeting of the Regional Initiative for Information and Communications Technology Strategies; and (d) to advise the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers on current developments in international trade, including WTO and the ASEAN Free Trade Area

Mongolia, to advise the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry on trade developments in the region, the prospects for Mongolian exports to South-East Asia and trade facilitation and e-commerce

New Caledonia, to provide technical advice to the Pacific Information and Communication Technologies Needs Assessment and Strategy Planning Workshop

Samoa, to advise the Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry on matters regarding accession to WTO and current developments in regional trade

Thailand, to advise the Department of Export Promotion on recent developments in international trade policy and implications for Thai exporters

Tonga: (a) to advise the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industries on current international trade and WTO issues and to brief business representatives on current international trade developments; and (b) to advise officials of the Ministry on issues relating to Tonga's accession to WTO and the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference

Vanuatu, to advise the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue and selected business representatives on the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement, with special reference to the transaction value method

Viet Nam: (a) to provide guidance on the implementation of the various United Nations trade facilitation norms and recommendations; (b) to advise the Hanoi Centre for Trade Development on international trade policy and practices, WTO and the multilateral trading system, and industrial development and investment policies for developing countries; and (c) to assist the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment in developing an organizational structure and business plan for Viet Nam's national trade facilitation body

Development research and policy analysis

Cambodia, to advise the Government on its preparations for and implementation of the Second Socio-economic Plan, 2001-2004, which incorporates a comprehensive strategy for poverty alleviation

Fiji: (a) to complete the first phase of the formulation of the corporate plan of Nasinu Town Council and assess the work in progress, including through a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT) workshop and the formulation of action plans; (b) to finalize the second phase of the Nasinu Town corporate plan involving the activities of the town for the next 5-10 years; (c) to finalize the third and last phases of the corporate plan; (d) to formulate step one of the corporate plan for Nadi Town Council and to discuss the formulation of the corporate plan for Labasa Town Council with the appropriate authorities and the Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlement and Environment; (e) to advise on the formulation of the corporate plan for Singatoka Town Council; (f) to evaluate the Microfinance Unit of the Ministry of Commerce, Business Development and Investment; (g) to review the price control system of Fiji; and (h) to complete the review of the price control system of Fiji, which started during the second quarter of 2001

Marshall Islands, to provide technical assistance in the formulation and design of a master plan for the Marshall Islands

Myanmar, to undertake a needs assessment mission to the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development to identify areas in which ESCAP can offer assistance and to prepare a technical assistance plan accordingly

New Caledonia: (a) to assist the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the promotion of income-generating activities for the Kanak tribes of the Northern Province; (b) to provide technical assistance to the Chamber on the third-year pilot project scheme on income-generating activities for the Kanak tribes of the Northern Province; (c) to provide technical assistance on the end of the pilot phase of the Chamber's development projects; and (d) to conclude a three-year social experiment aimed at replication throughout New Caledonia

Tuvalu: (a) to review the UNDP/Government of Tuvalu programme on strengthening local governance; (b) to assist the Department of Rural Development and Local Government, Ministry of Local Government, Women and Youth, in evaluating and reviewing the capacity-strengthening project for local governments and rural areas

Vanuatu: (a) to examine the role of the Foreign Service of Vanuatu in promoting national development through the country's external relations; (b) to review and draft a policy framework for the Foreign Service

Acts and Protocol Regulations, and (c) to prepare the technical reference text for the processing and packing of selected local food crops

Association of Pacific Island Legislatures Secretariat: (a) to review its policy on humanitarian assistance to its member countries and the current policy and administrative framework; (b) to prepare a comprehensive five-year corporate plan; and (c) to identify and prepare grant proposals and contribution campaigns for the Ayuda Foundation

Social development

Brunei Darussalam: (a) to undertake a detailed analysis and study of the poverty of households; (b) to compute a national poverty line, one each for urban and rural areas; and (c) to provide advice on the establishment of an information system for vulnerable groups

Cook Islands: (a) to advise on the social development policy; (b) to support the development of an agenda for action on social development; and (c) to advise on "education for all"

Mongolia, to advise the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour on the implementation, management and functional structure of its poverty reduction policy, the monitoring of poverty statistics and other relevant issues

Philippines: (a) to advise on social protection policies and programmes during the first Asia and Pacific Forum on Poverty: Policy and Institutional Reforms for Policy Reduction; (b) to assist the House of Representatives in collaboration with the Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy, University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance, in designing proposed laws to reduce poverty; and (c) to advise on the preparation of training modules for legislators on poverty reduction and social integration and assist in designing a framework for analysing the proposed 2002 General Appropriations Act to address poverty reduction

Thailand: (a) to advise on policies and review programmes of the Department of Skill Development of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare on sustainable poverty alleviation and on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; (b) to provide advice to central and field staff on sustainable poverty alleviation and the above conventions; (c) to assist the Department of Skill Development in identifying indicators of women and child friendliness and poverty responsiveness of the Department's centres, discuss their relevance and applicability and recommend steps for their systematic implementation

Tuvalu, to advise the Ministry of Local Government, Women and Youth on social development and welfare policy

Vanuatu: (a) to support the participatory strategic planning process within the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific, Board of Directors; and (b) to advise on Port Vila and Luganville Squatter settlement issues

Population and rural and urban development

Cambodia: (a) to assist the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction in the preparation of the country report of Cambodia for the special session of the General Assembly on the Habitat Agenda (Istanbul+5); and (b) to assist the Ministry in the formulation of a housing policy

India, to advise on and assist in the organization of a workshop on Internet-based distance learning with the Human Settlement Management Institute

Lao People's Democratic Republic: (a) to assist the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction in the preparation of the country report of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for Istanbul+5; and (b) to assist the Ministry in the development of a national urban-rural basic infrastructure development strategy

Environment and natural resources development

Bangladesh, to provide advice to officials of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. on the appropriate methodology for handling environmental issues during the implementation of transmission line projects

Cook Islands: (a) to provide technical advice in the context of a review of existing energy policies, including legal tools, energy sector institutions and pricing; and (b) to consult with selected subregional organizations on plans for subregional activities in the Pacific for possible cooperation and collaboration

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: (a) to advise the Academy of Sciences on mathematical modelling of river basins; and (b) to prepare and provide advice on the concept, design and feasibility of the rehabilitation of the Mirim barrage in Pyongyang

Fiji, to advise on FDI in mining and formulate a long-term strategy for social and environmental impact assessment and institution-building

Indonesia, to carry out a comprehensive survey of water conservation policies and practices and provide recommendations

Iran (Islamic Republic of), to advise on and conduct an energy audit for the sugar refinery industry

Kiribati, to investigate the options and potential for hybrid systems (solar/diesel) on outer islands and, in cooperation with energy officials from Tuvalu, prepare detailed terms of reference for a prefeasibility study on solar/hydrogen power potential in the islands

Kyrgyzstan: (a) to provide advice and support to the State Energy Agency in organizing the Central Asia workshop on the promotion of public awareness of efficient use of energy, Bishkek; and (b) to provide advice to the Government of Kyrgyzstan on, and attend, the Central and South Asia regional round table, Bishkek

Mongolia: (a) to provide technical advice to the Department of Policy Coordination, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department for Strategic Planning and Management and the International Affairs Office National Agency for Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment Monitoring; (b) to assist in organizing the Workshop on Sustainable Water Resources Management: Asia-Pacific Perspectives and provide advice on a number of environmental projects, including the reduction of air pollution in Ulaanbaatar; and (c) to coordinate and conduct a national training workshop on water resources policy

Myanmar: (a) to advise on an assessment of groundwater resources in Monywa District and the Yinmabin and Kalay areas, in close collaboration with the Water Resources Utilization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Monywa; (b) to advise the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of the Ministry of Transport on space technology applications for agrometeorology; and (c) to advise the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on GIS applications for agriculture statistics

Nepal: (a) to advise the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology on strategic steps to be taken to develop a national water quality programme and prepare a draft proposal for a diagnostic study of the water quality situation to attract funding from potential donors; and (b) to provide advisory services in the context of the national workshop on land degradation, drought and sustainable land development

Pakistan, to advise on mineral economics, particularly in the preparation of a techno-economic feasibility report on industrial minerals

Philippines, to advise on the application of the United Nations International Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities

Tajikistan, to provide advisory services on the utilization of water resources and assist in formulating projects related to science and environment, environmental research, sustainable development capacity-building and land degradation

Tonga, to advise on the national renewable energy policies and the options for subregional cooperation and on the prospects for privatizing the existing rural electrification network

Uzbekistan: (a) to make a preliminary assessment of institutional arrangements for microfinance and marketing services to rural communities in Karakalpakstan and to identify specific activities relating to the implementation of strategies for water conservation awareness; and (b) to advise the Hydrometeorology Administration and to develop a project concept on an integrated assessment of climate change in Uzbekistan and review a number of preliminary project proposals

Vanuatu, to advise on a prefeasibility study on the utilization of geothermal energy

Viet Nam: (a) to advise the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the preparation and implementation of a training workshop on flood management for the Mekong Delta; and (b) to advise the Forestry Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, on the national action programme formulation process to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

Bhutan, to advise on the Asian land transport infrastructure development project

Iran (Islamic Republic of), to advise on the use of the "Traincost" point-to-point rail costing model

Kazakhstan: (a) to advise the Ministry of Transport and Communications on transit transport development in Central Asia; (b) to undertake a fact-finding-cum-advisory mission for the Ministry on transit transport development; and (c) to provide technical advice on road transport development and facilitation

Philippines, to advise on promoting women's active involvement in tourism

Statistics

Fiji, to provide advice on the 1993 SNA

Indonesia, to advise on informal sector statistics

Micronesia (Federated States of), to provide advice on the 1993 SNA

Nepal, to provide advisory services on the preparation of a manual on national accounts and advise on the 1993 SNA

Papua New Guinea, to advise the National Statistical Office on making GDP estimates using the results of the annual Business Census, 1998

Philippines: (a) to assist the National Statistical Coordination Board in the preparation of a manual for compiling accounts in respect of non-profit institutions; and (b) to provide advisory services on ASEAN development indicators

Sri Lanka, to advise on the implementation of the first phase of the project on improvement of the web site of the Department of Census and Statistics

Thailand: (a) to provide advisory services on the 1993 SNA; (b) to advise the National Economic and Social Development Board and the National Statistical Office on national account compilation; and (c) to advise the National Statistical Office on organizing a workshop on the subject of an establishment/ enterprise survey

Viet Nam, to advise on the development of ASEAN surveillance and proxy indicators

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Georgia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao, China, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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